



Inside

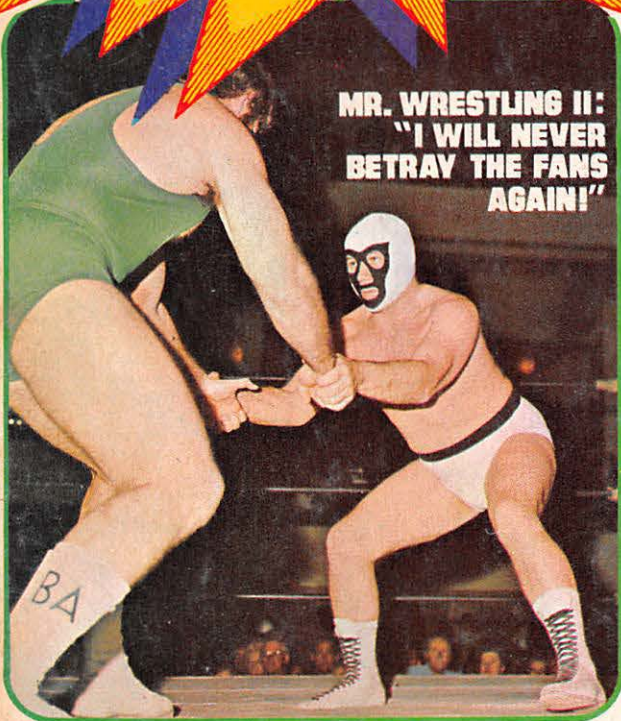
**THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS THE LID OFF
PRO WRESTLING**

NOVEMBER 1976

47727 **K** \$1.00

Wrestling

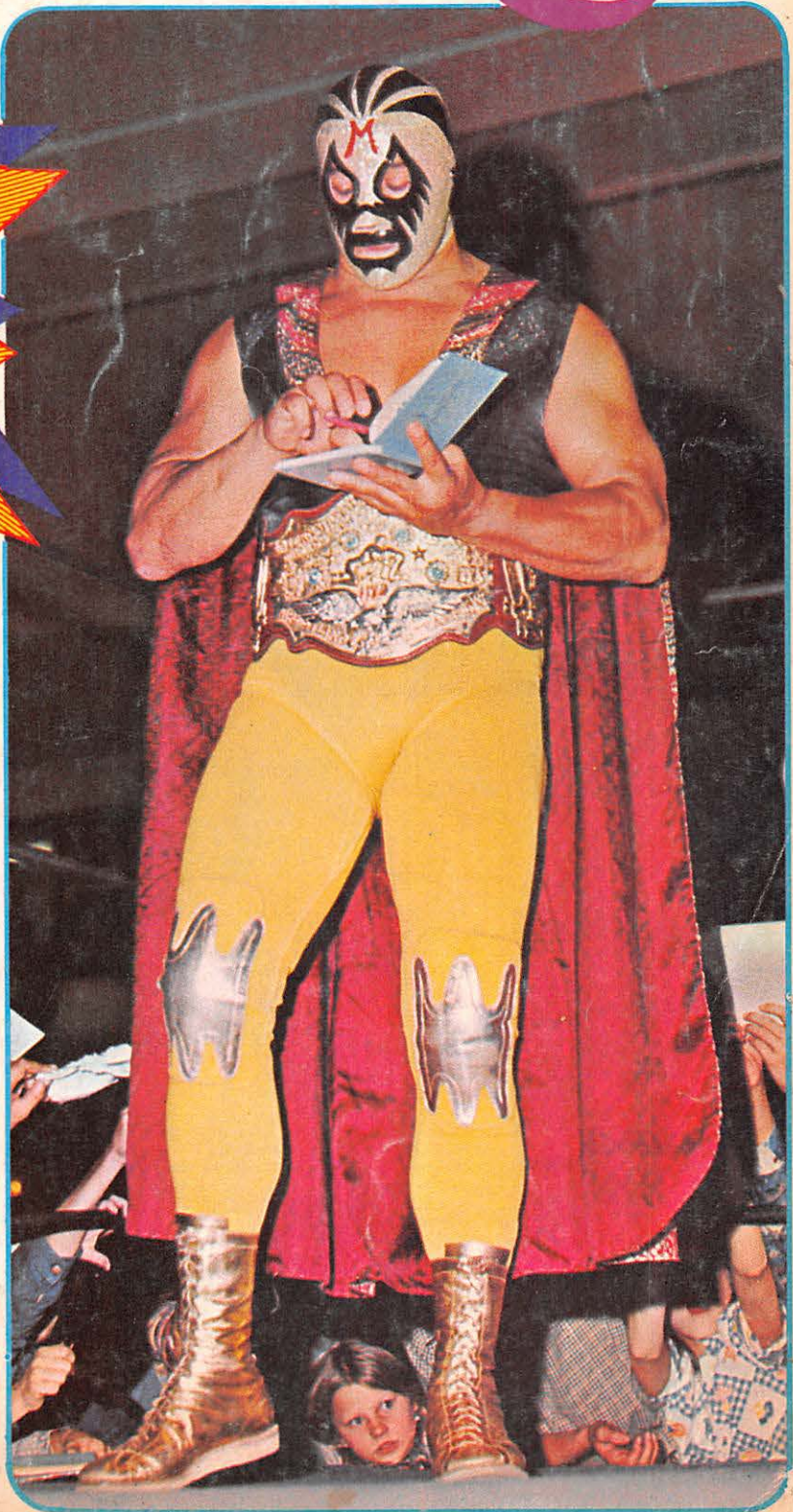
**ANNOUNCED IN THIS ISSUE...
THE WINNER
OF THE WIN A
MIL MASCARAS
MASK CONTEST!
Are YOU
the Lucky
Winner?**



**MR. WRESTLING II:
"I WILL NEVER
BETRAY THE FANS
AGAIN!"**

**Five Former NWA Kings Blast:
"TERRY FUNK IS A
DISGRACE TO THE TITLE!"**

**DO THE
PROMOTERS
PROTECT BRUNO
SAMMARTINO?**



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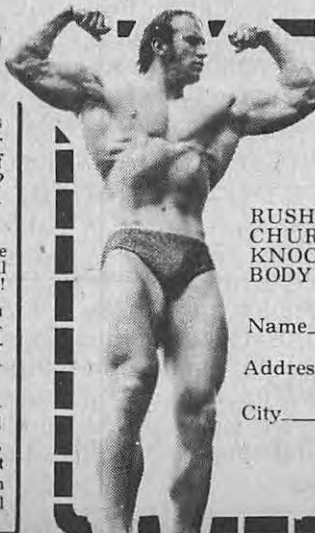
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INSIDE *Wrestling*

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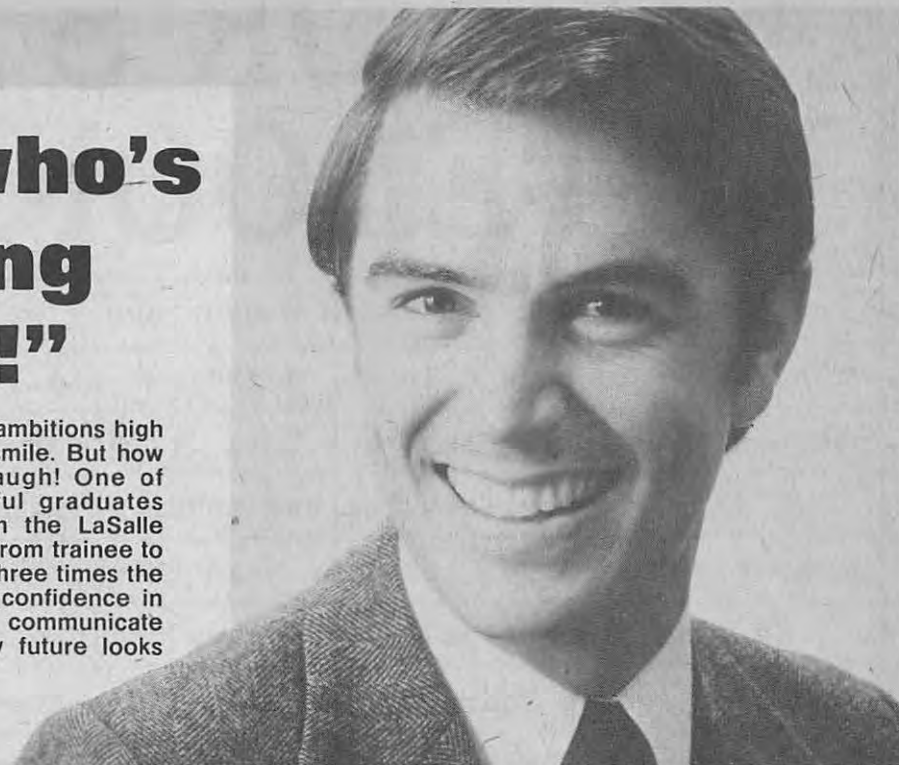
THEO EHRET
TONY LANZA
BOB SABRE
Photographers

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COVER PHOTOS
BY
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& BOB VERLIN

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

As you may recall, a few months ago I wrote about NWA champion Terry Funk in this column. I praised him. I thought that would be the end of it. Boy, was I in for a surprise!

I could not believe the avalanche of mail I received. And almost every letter said the same thing: "Terry Funk is a bum!"

So, in order to be fair, I have decided to again journey south and watch Funk wrestle. And this time I will follow the advice many of you offered--I will see Funk wrestle in some place other than his hometown of Amarillo. Most fans claimed I will be witnessing a different man. I'll let you know next month.

Stan Stasiak has returned to the WWF area and has already tried to threaten me. "Peter," he growled at me, "I want you to have your magazines strip Sammartino of the WWF title. Then you will recognize me as champion! If you don't do this, you'd better be sure your insurance is paid up!" Well, I told Stasiak to take a flying leap. I'm not afraid of him. I can take care of myself. However, I must admit I keep my eyes open at all times. Yes, I'll let you know how this turns out next month, too!

Remember, wrestling fans, if you have any comments about any story or column you see printed in this magazine (yes, you can even write to say I'm wrong!), send them to:

Editor's Notebook

c/o INSIDE WRESTLING

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THE
FAIRGROUNDS
RICHMOND



Chief Jay Strongbow is happy to be teaming with Billy White Wolf (above). Chief is more determined than ever (below), and the fans love him for it.



EASTHAMPTON, NEW YORK —First of all, I would like to thank all the readers who send cards and letters to this magazine wishing me a speedy recovery. As you may remember, last month I was placed in the unfortunate circumstance of becoming the first reporter to have been burnt by The Sheik's fire. After my experience in Toronto, I will be a little

more careful when interviewing fire-throwing wrestlers.

As of now, I have recovered sufficiently from the second degree burns. I hope to be back on the highways next month, if the doctor allows it. For the time being, I am staying at my beach-front summer home.

During my recuperation, I have been visited by several close friends in wrestling. My latest visitor was one of the nicest men I know in the sport today, Chief Jay Strongbow. Jay had some interesting news to tell me about himself and his future.

The beaches in the Hamptons have to be the most beautiful in the world. The sun warms the soul. The white Long Island sands inspire tranquil poetry. I could tell Jay really like being in Easthampton. Alone on the sands, he and I began to discuss his return to the WWF area. He was very anxious to discuss this matter.

"You know," he told me, "I really love living on my farm in Georgia. Life is a lot easier down south. People are more relaxed. It isn't the same as the rat race in the Northeast.

"But being honest with you, I really miss the action up here. Wrestling in the WWF is very exciting. It's very different style than down South. However, the family likes it down there, and

(Continued on page 52)

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Randy
Gordon

IF YOU RECALL, in my last column I told you about my challenge to Stan Hansen. I told him I believed it was impossible for him to hurt me with his notorious lariat. Surprisingly, he took me up on my challenge. Even more surprisingly, Hansen chickened out.

I had set up a specific time, date, and place where the two of us would meet. Hansen agreed to the meeting, saying, "Just be there! I'm a busy man and you're lucky I happened to be able to fit you in to my schedule. You're not gonna be so lucky when I bash your silly face with my lariat, though. You'd better show up! No chickening out, understand!"

I understood perfectly. I was really looking forward to climbing through the ropes against the much bigger but much slower Hansen. So what happened? I arrived at the gym in New York City 45 minutes early, accompanied by all my colleagues and several of my close friends. I had trained hard, and I really felt I was ready for his dangerous lariat. So what happened? Stan Hansen, the man who warned me not to chicken out—chickened out. I waited and waited in the gym, and after hanging around for close to three hours, I realized Hansen wasn't going to show up. Man, was I ever ticked off!

When I tried to get into his dressing room a few nights later, Hansen was letting all reporters in—except me. Stan sent word out that he didn't want to look at me or hear from me (too bad for him), and the next time he saw me he'd bust my head wide open with his lariat. I'm ready Stan. Come and get me!

Jerry Brisco told me he finally feels he's out of the shadow of his brother, Jack. Jerry believes now he's just beginning to realize his full potential as a wrestler. He is a yogurt freak, and trains as hard as any athlete I have ever seen. Because of the immense amount of energy he burns up in the gym, his appetite has become mountainous. At dinner one night with him, Jerry put away two 12-ounce steaks, a one-pound lobster, one dozen stuffed clams, a huge plate of

(Continued on page 58)

"I CAN SHOW YOU EXACTLY HOW TO...

GET A \$3000 RAISE TOMORROW!"

Have you resigned yourself to getting along on one modest raise a year? Then I'd like to tell you about an incredible, **foolproof** system for getting bigger raises more often. This system is so **powerful** I personally guarantee it'll get you the raise you want more than nine times out of ten!

This system has nothing to do with when you got your last raise, or whether you even deserve a raise. No, this is a whole new system for presenting yourself **with total command and assurance** — a system that is so absolutely convincing there is simply no way your boss can refuse you. He will literally feel **compelled** to give you a raise.

To show you how incredibly effective my system is all you have to do is look at me. I don't particularly like to talk about it, but ten years ago I was one of the biggest losers the world had ever seen. Shy, unaggressive, stuck in a job that paid a lousy eighty-five dollars a week. I wasn't bad at my work, but I was so quiet and unassertive hardly anyone in the company knew I existed. Then, almost by accident, I came across

a whole new system for getting raises. A system that is so incredibly **dynamic** it instantly put me on the map with all of the people I worked for. The rest is history.

Today I earn over \$125,000 a year. During the last ten years I've had over 37 raises. That averages out to 3.7 raises a year. To be honest, some of them have been for as little as \$500. But most have been around \$2,000 and some have been for as much as \$10,000.

Now, at the age of thirty-three, I am a major stockholder and vice-president with one of America's largest and best-known communications corporations. I have several hundred thousand dollars in blue-chip investments and own a stable of fine cars including the beautiful antique Rolls Royce you see above.

The irony of all this is I'm not one bit smarter or more talented than any of the people I work with. (Some of them have done a lot more for the company than I have.) But while they've been inching along, often on less than one raise a year, I've been getting one big salary increase after another. Almost at the rate of **four times a year!** And now I'm going to show you exactly how you can do the same. I've turned my fool-proof raise-getting system into a special executive report called **HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT!** This system is so easy to master you can put it to work for you the very same day you get it.

You don't have to be buddies with the boss. You don't have to be a company Super-star. You don't have to be special in any way. You simply walk into your supervisor's



"Most people sit around hoping for more money. I can show you how to go in and get the raise you want now. I personally guarantee it!"

office, follow the simple program laid out for you in your report, and you'll get the raise you want as easy as that. There is simply no way your boss can refuse you. What's more, this amazing raise-getting system will soon have your boss looking at you in a whole new light. No matter what your career has been like up until now, your boss will **instantly** begin thinking of you as a real go-getter, someone who is "going places" with the company.

If you want to start getting big, fat, juicy raises — up to three and four times a year — I suggest you reserve your copy of **HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT** right now.

It costs only ten dollars (postage, handling, taxes included). And it comes with my personal guarantee that it'll help you get a substantial raise within thirty days of you're receiving it. If it doesn't, or if you're unhappy with it in any way (even if it's already helped you get a raise) just return it for a complete and immediate refund. No questions asked.

That's how absolutely certain I am this foolproof system will turn

you into an expert raise-getter, someone who decides exactly how much money they want to be making and then goes in and gets it. Remember, **HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT** costs only ten dollars and it's fully guaranteed. So you have absolutely nothing to lose and literally thousands upon thousands of dollars to gain **IMMEDIATELY!** So send for **HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT** today. And start making the kind of money you deserve.

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NAMES MAKI

BOBBY HEENAN telephoned the office and begged to have us kill the story about NICK BOCKWINKLE firing him. Sorry Heenan, we don't do that sort of thing here. Our readers hear it all—fact and rumor! . . . What a soft heart BRUNO SAMMARTINO has. Just a few moments before a recent title defense, Sammartino took time out



**BRUNO SAMMARTINO
& FRIEND**

to visit with a wheelchair-ridden child. It really made the kid's day. Bruno, more wrestlers should have the kind of heart you do! . . . Speaking about Bruno's heart, it could be in a very bad way soon. Heartpunch expert STAN STASIAK is on his tail. THE GRAND WIZARD, Stan's manager, blasts: "Sammartino will suffer more agony than he's ever known when he gets into that ring against Stan 'My Championship Man' Stasiak!"

The entire wrestling community mourns the tragic deaths of SAM BASS, FRANK HESTER, and PEPE LOPEZ. The three died in an automobile accident en route to an arena . . . PAMPERO FIRPO has good reason to be wearing that million dollar smile. The Argentinian won a clear victory over THE SHEIK, as well as the U.S. title. You've sure made fans proud of you, Pampero . . . Poor BEAU JAMES, manager of

RAY STEVENS. He lost a hair match to DUSTY RHODES and looks pretty odd with his new shining noggin! . . . Tennessee buffs have good reason to hate the area tag team champions, PHIL HICKERSON and DENNIS CONDRY. They're one of the most brutal duos the sport has ever come across . . . Add DEAN HO to the list of victims of the "new" DICK SLATER.

Hey, this kid STEVE KEIRN is really makin' waves in the Sun-



PAMPERO FIRPO

shine State of Florida. He almost won the NWA title from TERRY FUNK. Too bad there was a time limit on the match, Steve . . . RUSS FRANCIS is forcing veteran mat observers to stand up and take notice of his great talent as he keeps defeating top AWA stars. . . Sorry to report this: BUDDY ROGERS has no plans of making a comeback. The great ex-champ is in tip-top shape, but he is happy watching from the sidelines and attending to his many fruitful business interests . . . A Puerto Rican promoter outbid every other promoter in the world to land the MIL MASCARAS/SUPERSTAR GRAHAM titanic confrontation. By the way, congratulations are in order to Ronnie Lyman for winning our "Win A Mil Mascaras Mask" contest. Take good care of that



MIL MASCARAS



STEVE KEIRN

mask, Ron!

RAY CANDY has been nicknamed "the soulman's version of Dusty Rhodes" by his legion of fans in Florida . . . CHAVO GUERRERO has taken his battles against RODDY PIPER to Texas . . . FRANK MONTE has improved greatly since moving to California. But several wrestlers are sick of his rulebreaking ways and they are planning to gang up on

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

him and teach him a well deserved lesson . . . When GASHOUSE GILBERT boasts, "I can whip CHIEF STRONGBOW and BILLY WHITE WOLF in a handicap match in less than 10 minutes," most listeners agree that Gilbert's running off at the mouth.

BLACK GORDMAN and GOLIATH are doing their dastardly deeds in Kansas City . . . Somebody



JERRY LAWLER



ANDRE THE GIANT



PEPPER GOMEZ



PAUL JONES

chickened out in the JERRY LAWLER-ANDRE THE GIANT contract signing. Andre showed up—Jerry didn't. He claimed he had more important things to attend to. You call yourself the "King of Wrestling," Jerry. You sure don't live up to your self-given title!" . . . If BOBBY DUNCUM is as great as he claims to be, why did he flatly refuse to sign on the dotted line for a return match against GREG GAGNE . . . Bravos to PEPPER GOMEZ for making mincemeat out of the MASKED STRANGLER . . . "Print this word for word," demands BRUISER: "I will revert to my old manaical ways when I get another match against BLACKJACK LANZA.

I hope my fans don't look down on me for this, but I want to end that skunk's career! I hope they'll forgive me for reverting to my old style." They will Bruiser. Do your thing and good luck!

Everyone is delighted WAHOO McDANIEL has returned to a full schedule—everyone but RIC FLAIR that is . . . It looks as though PAUL



GREG GAGNE

JONES has come out of that rut of his. It's about time—now he should get that title shot he wants so badly! . . . BUGSY McGRAW, your fans on the east coast are begging for your return—believe it or not! . . . Maybe I'm mistaken, but I still think GREG VALENTINE will join SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK and the HOLLYWOOD BLONDS in Florida . . . The rumor mill has it IVAN KOLOFF has gone back to Russia where he's taking a very special training seminar after which he will tour the globe and then swing back to the WWWF to again challenge Sammartino.

See you next month with all the latest news and gossip! □

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Natchitoches, LA 71457
Enjoys swimming. Wahoo
McDaniel her favorite.
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Likes good and bad
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IN PALS



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Jermyn, PA 18433
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Prince George, VA 23875
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Jones her favorite.
Likes good and bad
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Alexandria, VA 22309
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DEAN ESPOSITO (8)
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for pen pals.



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Dunmore, PA 18512
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his favorite. Likes
good and bad guys.
Girls for pen pals.



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McDaniel his favorite.
Likes good guys.
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favorite. Likes
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Bruiser his favorite.
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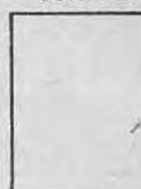
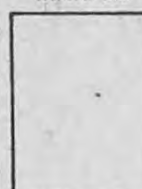
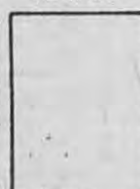
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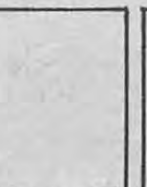
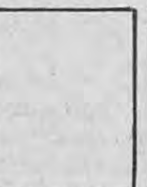
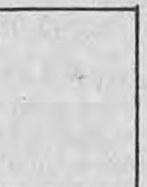
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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By **DAN SHOCKET**

NOW THAT THE occurrence of sneak attacks is as common as the rising of the sun, it's about time someone decided to put a stop to them.

The more reprehensible athletes have found a sneak attack is the best way to gain a quick, undeserved advantage. They've also discovered referees are too cowardly or quite powerless to stop them. If all a person cares about is winning, they'd have to be morons not to use the sneak attack at every available opportunity.

Few fans appreciate how devastating this maneuver is to the victim. Many grapplers are too badly stunned to wrestle properly. Dazed from the blows, they cannot fully realize their potential. Not only are they deprived of an even chance, the fans are cheated of the exhibition they paid good money to see. Remember, everyone is cheated when a sneak attack takes place.



Joe LeDuc had to wrestle with blood flowing in his eyes after being savagely sneak attacked.



Killer Brooks ruthlessly attacks Tony Marino at a televised—and supposedly peaceful—contract signing. Brooks was not penalized or fined for this, although the savage rabbit punch made Marino slightly dizzy for the match, held only a few short days later.

It's incredible to anyone who cares about the sport that there are no sanctions against the sneak attack besides a mild reprimand. Why aren't the men immediately disqualified? Why aren't they fined and/or suspended on a regular basis? The answers are painfully clear; some official cowardice is at work.

Despite their many protestations of being controlled by the commissions, wrestlers obviously have a lot of power. If an infamous grappler doesn't like the way he's being treated, he can always go to another area where the reception is a little more mild. To accomodate him, to make sure he's drawing fans to the arenas, the commissions will

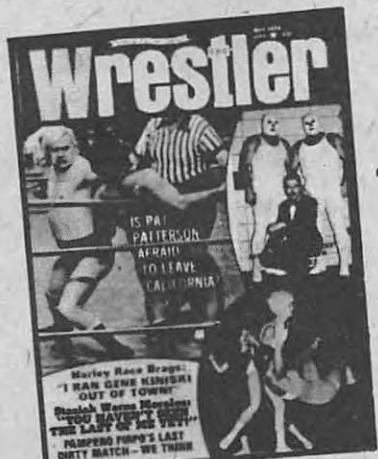
ignore the reprehensible tactics. The promoters know if they punish too hard, the wrestlers will go to another area. And that could mean the promoter loses a little money. When it comes to a choice between money and integrity, guess which choice the money men make!

Now, the fans are also responsible to a great degree. A promoter, who prefers to remain nameless, tried to defend himself by blaming the crowd.

"Look," he began, "I once came down really hard on guys who sneak attack. Immediate disqualification. Heavy fines. More than once, I gave a six-month suspension. I refused to let a match go on after a guy was

(Continued on page 60)

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NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS



Big Bull Ramos (above) blew his NWA title shot. Tough luck is what's plaguing Dory Funk Jr. He dropped a match to Harley Race (below) a man he just can't beat.



SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—Correspondent: *Marty Schneider*—The NWA title was at stake when Terry Funk took on huge Bull Ramos. This was Funk's first Seattle appearance. The battle was a brutal one, with the rulebook being all but ignored.

Terry managed to take the first fall in 19:00 when he caught Ramos in a reverse cradle. The rough Bull came back to win the second fall in 4:30. Ramos was now one fall away from winning the coveted title. He was in charge at the sound of the bell for the third fall. Terry was being beaten to a pulp when he tricked Ramos and cradled him again—this time for the win... Big John Quinn stopped Keith Franks... Blackjack Morris stomped Francisco Flores... Dutch Savage was too much for Kenji Shibuya... Dale Lewis whipped Eric Forleisch... Jimmy Snuka and Gene Kiniski grappled to an exciting draw.

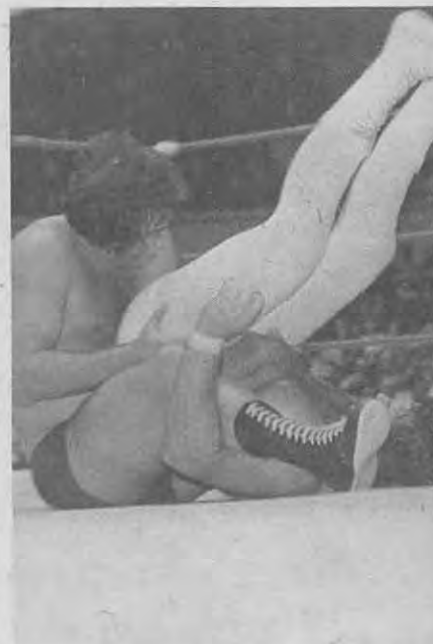
* * *

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—Correspondent: *Milton Stone*—The Mid-South Coliseum was the scene of Jerry Lawler's Southern title defense against former NWA champion Jack Brisco. Jack took an early lead and kept the advantage well into the match. But the sly Lawler took that same advantage away from Jack as he staggered him with elbow smashes and kicks. When Jack collapsed to the mat, Jerry climbed the ropes and prepared to do a flying kneedrop on Jack's throat. But the ex-NWA champion was only playing possum. He moved just as Jerry was about to connect and Jerry came crashing to the mat. Jack followed up and was awarded the Southern title just a few moments later... Tommy Gilbert and Bill Dundee wrestled to a "no contest"... Don Kernolde won via disqualification over The Scorpion... Dennis Condry and Phil Hickerson were disqualified in their match against Jackie Fargo and Plowboy Frazier.

* * *

TORONTO, ONTARIO—Correspondent: *Keith Gibbs*—Gene Kin-

iski had Andre the Giant referee his match against The Sheik. Andre had his hands full keeping law and order. When Kiniski was beating the Arab madman, Sheik's manager, Abdullah Farouk, passed a foreign object to his man. However, Andre intercepted the weapon. Farouk ran into the ring and passed Sheik another one. Andre picked up the manager and carried him back to the dressing room—while Kiniski and The Sheik slugged it out. Sheik pulled another weapon from out



A cradle hold upsets Jerry Lawler for the moment as he clashes with Jack Brisco. Jack won the NWA Southern title from "the king."

of his trunks and belted Gene with it, rendering him semi-conscious. Another confused referee, Tiger Tasker, who was standing at ringside, entered the ring while The Sheik body pressed Gene for the win. But Andre came back and reversed the decision! He had seen what happened and let justice prevail... Ox Baker was disqualified

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

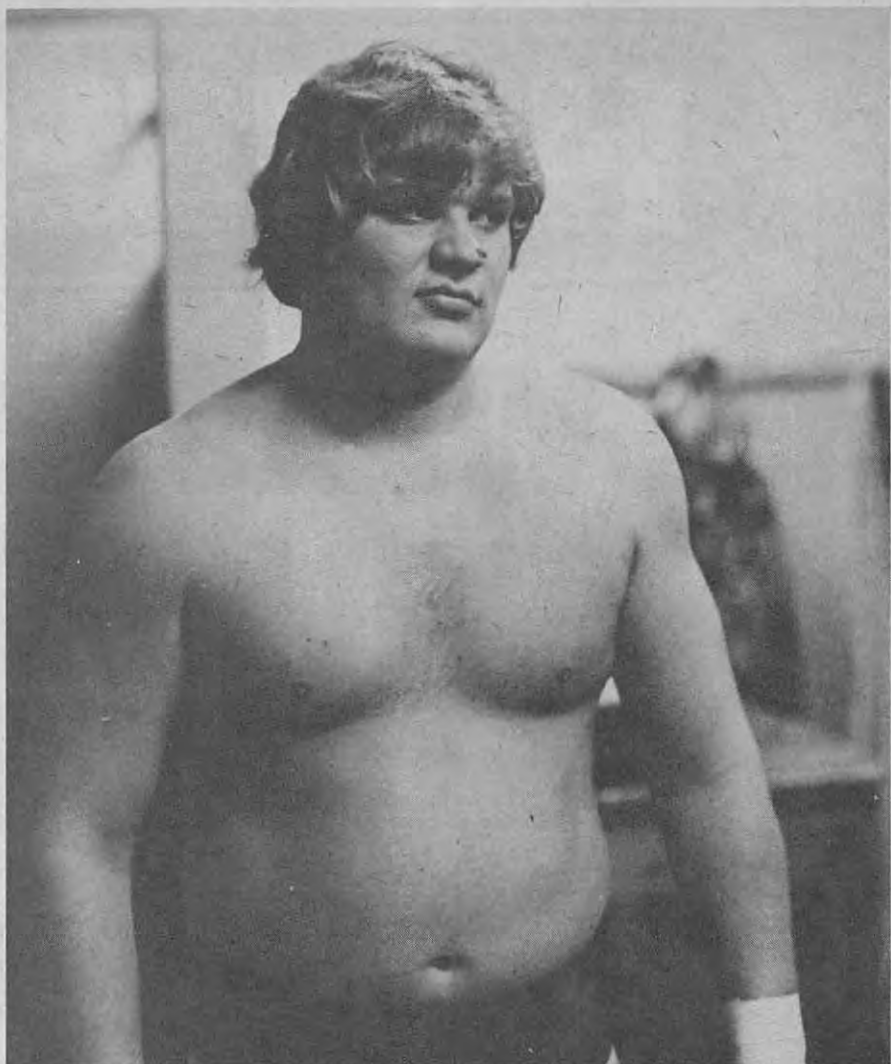
against Edouard Carpentier . . . Carlos Rocha stopped Chris Colt . . . The Wildman drew with Chris Tolos . . . Hank James whipped Lou Klein.

* * *

WICHITA, KANSAS— Correspondent: **Brian Baresch**—Dory Funk Jr. clashed with Harley Race, the man who beat him for the NWA title several years ago. The first 20 minutes were scientific, with Dory holding the edge. But soon fists were flying. It looked like the end when Dory cradled Race, but Funk was holding Harley's trunks and had to break. Race took the advantage and cradled Dory for the win and a title shot at Terry Funk's NWA crown . . . Chief Thunder Cloud smashed Tank Patton . . . Joe Palardi dropped one to Akio Sato . . . Mike George and the Super Intern beat Gordman and Goliath by disqualification . . . Skip Young demolished Mr. Seki. Young is a contender for the area's Rookie of the Year award.

* * *

ATLANTA, GEORGIA— Correspondent: **Paul Pressley**—The "Happy Hawaiian," Dean Ho battled the hated Dick Slater in a vicious match. At the sound of the bell, Dean locked Slater in a powerful headlock. Dick, hoping to dislodge Ho, raised him high into the air and gave Dean an atomic backbreaker. It amazed everyone when Ho just stood there afterwards. He didn't feel any effects from the backbreaker!



The now hated Dick Slater (above) gave Dean Ho a bad beating. Ric Flair is in charge for the moment (below) as he stomps the head of Paul Jones in a tag team brawl.



Dick went wild as the fans howled at his fruitless maneuver. However, a low punch on the part of Slater forced Ho to crumple to the mat. Dean recovered quickly and went wild, smashing Slater's head into the ringposts. Then he hung Slater up in the ropes and began bodyblocking him. On the second attempt, Slater moved out of the way and Dean crashed into a ringpost. It was all over for him.

* * *

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA— Correspondent: **Jan Spoone**

—Paul Jones and Wahoo McDaniel combined to make a joint effort in their war against Angelo Mosca and Ric Flair. Wahoo was delighted to beat the daylights out of Flair, the man who sent him to the hospital for several days after a brutal match. The four grapplers mixed in the action constantly. Finally Jones and Wahoo took full charge and whipped the duo the fans hate so much. It should be a long time before Mosca and Flair accept another match against Paul and Wahoo. □

HOTSEAT

MR. WRESTLING II: "I WILL NEVER BETRAY THE FANS AGAIN!"

HES A MAN of mystery. He wears a white mask to project an image of purity and sportsmanship. A well-known wrestler before he donned the mask, he was picked by the original Mr. Wrestling to follow in his footsteps. His wars against Toru Tanaka have become classics. He is one of the most popular men in the sport. He is Mr. Wrestling II.

Q: Welcome to the "Hotseat," Mr. Wrestling II.

A: Thanks. By the way, you can call me "Two." That's the nickname most people have given me.

Q: Okay, two. How did you become Mr. Wrestling II?

A: At one time, there were a lot of guys putting on masks and calling themselves Mr. Wrestling. Tim Woods, the original Mr. Wrestling, felt these men were second-rate wrestlers, and they did not live up to the true name and image of Mr. Wrestling. So Tim decided if there was going to be another Mr. Wrestling, he should pick that

person himself. He picked me.

Q: Why did he choose you?

A: To tell you the full story would reveal my identity to you—and that is something I do not wish to do at this time.

Q: Will you tell us why you wear a mask?

A: For the same reason as Tim. The white mask stands for justice,

“
**The white mask stands
for justice, purity, and clean
sportsmanship. To have the
honor bestowed on me like
this—having the mask
everyone identifies with—
was just something I couldn't
pass up.**
”

purity, and clean sportsmanship.

Q: Couldn't you maintain the same image without the mask?

A: I did. But to have the honor bestowed on me like this—having the mask everyone identifies with—

was something I just couldn't pass up.

Q: Isn't it true that you once brought shame to that mask?

A: I'm not quite sure I know what you're referring to.

Q: You had a spell in which you were not wrestling within the rules against men like Ron Fuller, Bob Armstrong and Dory Funk Jr.

A: Oh yes. I did betray my fans once, but I'll never betray the fans again.

Q: Why did you do it?

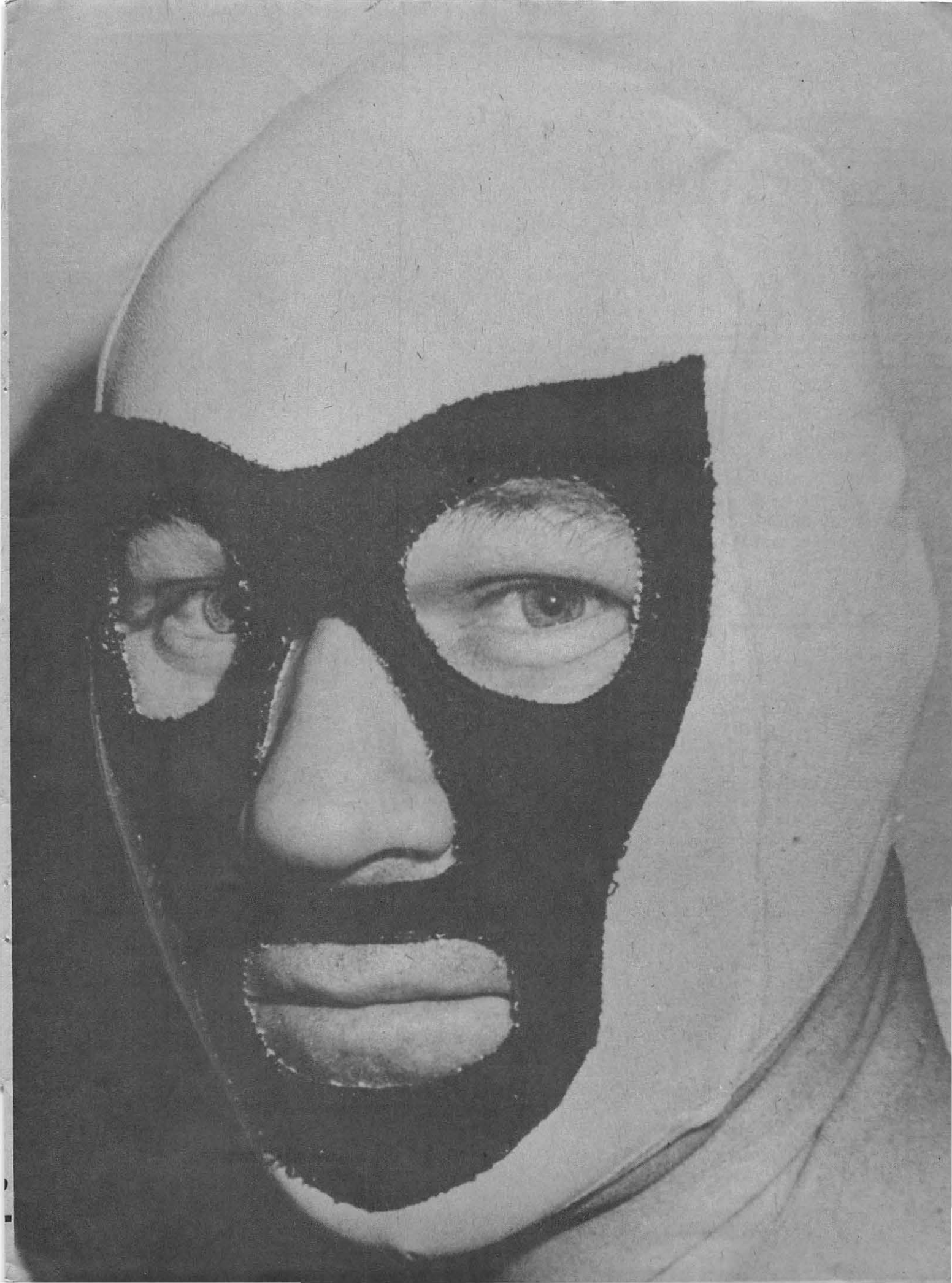
A: Things were not going my way. I just couldn't land any big matches. I felt I was good enough to get a title shot, but some other people didn't.

Q: So you rebelled?

A: You could say that. I just felt I'd keep beating people—or rather eliminating people—who stood in my way for the title. Later I realized I had brought shame to my image.

Q: How did you come to realize it?

A: When Tim Woods returned to the area in which I was wrestling, he found out what I was doing. He said I could never call myself Mr.





“

When I wrestle a scientific wrestler, I wrestle him scientifically. If I'm matched against a rulebreaker, I will wrestle scientifically until I lose my temper. Then he'd better watch out!

”

Wrestling II again. So we wrestled each other a few times and he gave me a lesson I really needed. We made up several weeks later and he agreed to let me be Mr. Wrestling II again, as long as I vowed never again to break the rules.

Q: Have you kept your word?

A: Yes. When I wrestle a scientific wrestler, I wrestle him scientifically. If I'm matched against a rulebreaker, I will wrestle scientifically until I lose my temper, then he had better watch out!

Q: Does Woods approve of this?

A: Yes. He realizes I do this as a matter of survival.

Q: Do you tag team with Tim often?

A: No. We used to team a lot, but Tim likes to move around the country and I like to stay in the South. And we're both itching for individual title shots. Tag teaming won't get you there.

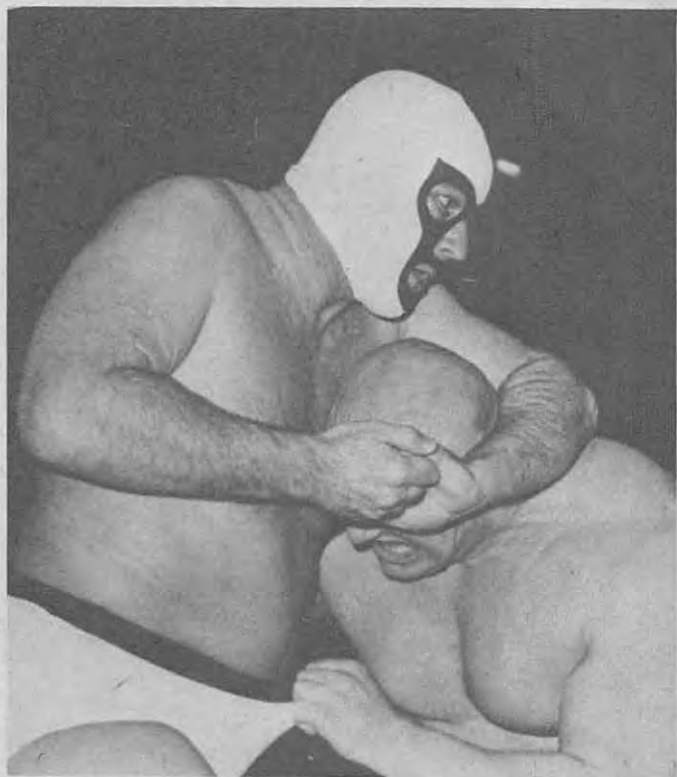
Q: Do you envision unmasking yourself one of these days and showing the world who you are?

A: Perhaps, but not in the near future. There are many wrestlers who refused to wrestle me when I was not a masked man. They were afraid of the things I could do to them with



Mr. Wrestling II hurls his foe, Brute Bernard, into the ropes (above) and then captures Brute in a headlock (right) after the infamous star came rebounding off the ropes.

This move takes almost perfect timing and many years of long and hard work. It is one of many difficult maneuvers in Mr. Wrestling II's vast repertoire.



my unusual style of wrestling.

Q: Unusual?

A: Yes, I used to . . . Wait a second. You're trying to get me in a corner and learn my true identity!

Q: We thought we were getting there.

A: No sir. Change the subject.

Q: Okay. What do you consider the worst injury you've ever sustained?

A: That's easy. The broken neck I had after my match against Professor

Tanaka caused the most terrifying time in my life.

Q: How long were you laid up in the hospital?

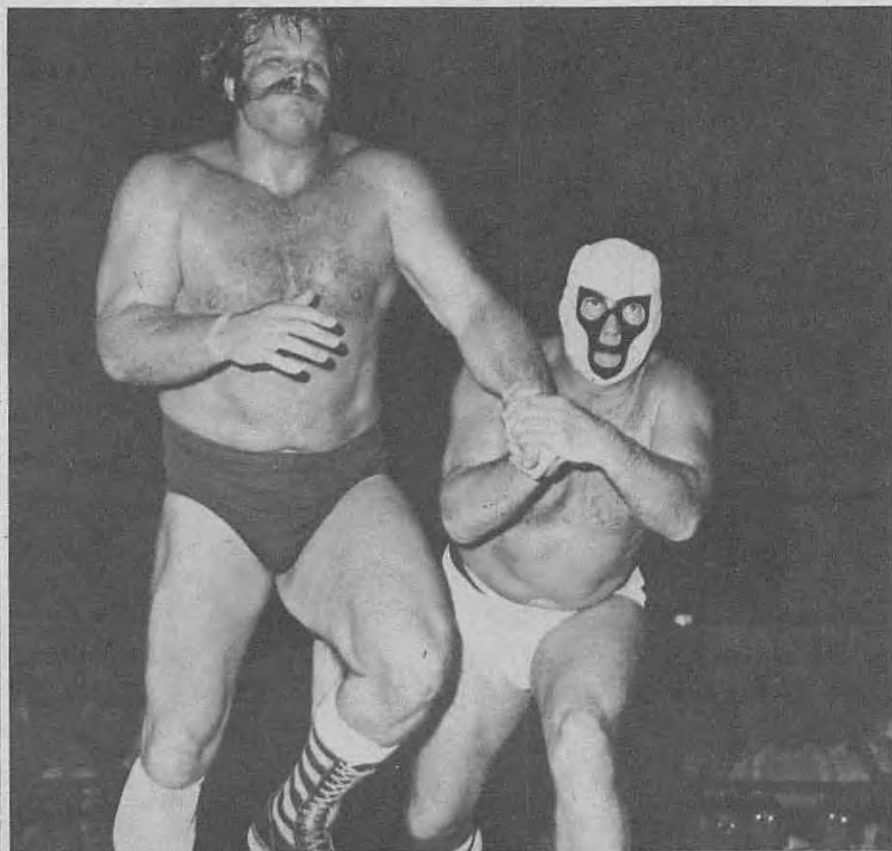
A: Several weeks, plus I had to recuperate at home for a long time.

Q: Did you feel like killing Tanaka when you wrestled him the first time after the injury?

A: Yes, and I nearly did. Thank goodness some other wrestlers jumped



Above: Mr. Wrestling II wreaks revenge on Professor Toru Tanaka as he renders the Oriental grappler a bloody mess. Tanaka had put the masked wrestler into the hospital a few months before. Doctors feared Mr. Wrestling II would never grapple again. Below: Mr. Wrestling II sends one of the feared Anderson brothers flying.



in and dragged me back to the dressing room. I might have had a murder charge hanging on me if they hadn't have done that.

Q: Let's move on now and get your opinion of another masked wrestler.

A: Do you mean The Spoiler?

Q: Yes.

A: He is a man I despise with a passion.

Q: Why?

A: Because he stands for cruelty. A man who wears a mask and wrestles in the vicious way he does should be kicked out of this sport. I'm proud to wear a mask. He brings shame to masks, not honor.

Q: Let's talk about Stan Stasiak.

A: Must we?

Q: Yes.

A: It will make me sick, but go on.



“

Spoiler is a man I hate with a passion because he stands for cruelty. A man who wears a mask and wrestles in the vicious ways he does should be kicked out of the sport. He brings shame to masks, not honor.

”

Q: Does he really know who you are?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure?

A: I've heard who he thinks I am. He's far off. There is no way Stan Stasiak will ever find out who I am.

Q: What do you think of his heart-punch?

A: By far, it is one of the most devastating tactics in wrestling.

Q: Do you think it should be outlawed?

A: No. If a wrestler knows he's going to go in against Stasiak, he should work out a defense for the heart-punch. There are several methods of defending yourself against it.

Q: Could you elaborate on one?

A: No. If Stasiak is reading this I'm sure he'll work up a defense to my strategy, and I wouldn't want that to happen!

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to say?

A: Yes. Bless all the fans who have supported me in both the good times and bad times. I love each and every one of you and I'm just sorry I can't meet all of you and spend time with you.

Q: Thank you.

A: It's been a real pleasure. □

Wrestling's Hottest Rumor:

UPON CAREFUL EXAMINATION, most rumors turn out to be mere flights of fancy, concocted by someone who wants to maliciously slander some wrestler or manager. But sometimes a rumor comes along which requires a second look. The results of an investigation can be quite interesting.

When a man is a champion, all kind of vicious rumors spring up about him. Most people tend to ignore these as just idle gossip. But recently Nick Bockwinkel, and his manager Bobby Heenan, have been the subjects of a rumor that refuses to die.

At first the story was passed from one person to the other in hushed tones. No one wanted to believe it, yet everyone hoped it was true. Then more and more evidence came to light to back up this rumor. Now many people are speaking openly on the subject.

Bockwinkel poses with his AWA title belt while his manager, Bobby Heenan, turns his back on the photographer. Or was he ordered away by Bockwinkel? A feud may be brewing between the two egotistical rulebreakers.



NICK BOCKW FIRED BOBB

No matter where you go today, the big question is whether or not Nick Bockwinkle has given manager Bobby Heenan the old heave-ho. We've sent a team of investigative reporters to study the situation and the reality turns out to be stranger than the rumors!

Has Nick Bockwinkle fired Bobby Heenan as his manager?

It cannot be denied there has been a certain degree of tension between the two men during the past few months. Loud, boisterous arguments between Heenan and the AWA champion have been heard from behind the closed door of Nick's dressing room. Afterwards people have seen Bobby emerge from the room visibly shaken, refusing to speak to anyone.

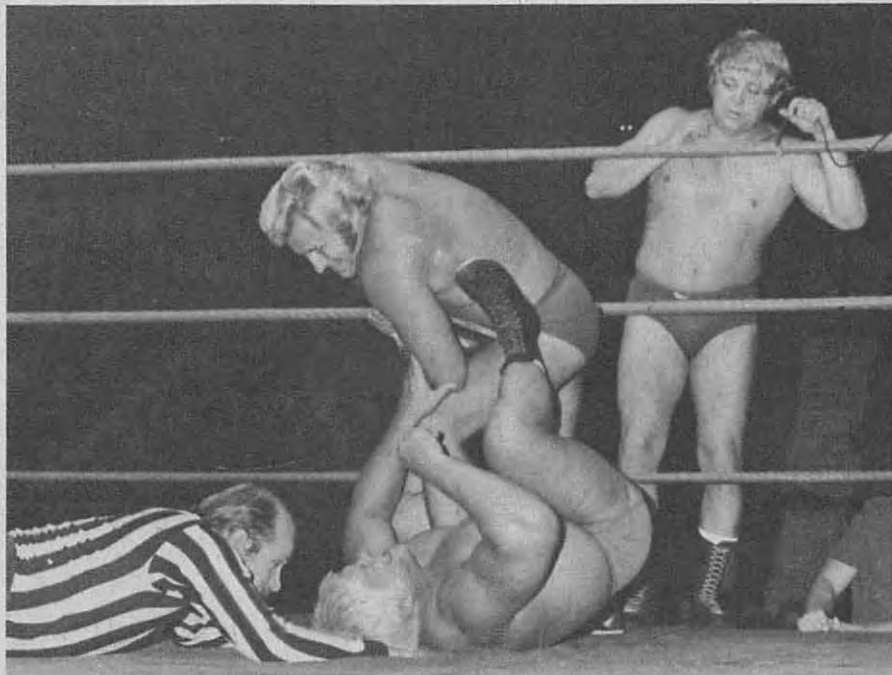
For a short time, it appeared whatever was wrong between the two men had cleared up. But that was just the calm before the storm.

Breaking away from tradition, Bobby began to talk to the press about the man he manages in less than a flattering way. He issued a long statement asserting that he, not Nick Bockwinkle, was responsible for winning the AWA title. He claimed Bockwinkle just did everything that Bobby told him to do. Heenan alleged that Nick would not have become AWA champion if Bobby hadn't told him how to do it. It was a less-than-flattering portrait of Nick. And it hurt.

Outwardly, Bockwinkle gave no indication he had even seen the story or heard any of Heenan's claims. But whenever a reporter brought up the subject of Bobby Heenan, Nick would immediately change the topic of discussion. He just would not talk about his manager and the accusations.

But inwardly, it was obvious to those who know Bockwinkle well, he

(Continued on page 50)



Above: With tag team partner Ray Stevens looking on, Bockwinkle makes it rough for Crusher. Stevens is responsible for Nick becoming such a cruel rulebreaker, teaching him during the days when they were a top tag team. Right: A weary Bockwinkle has his hand raised after a controversial win.



INKLE HAS Y HEENAN!

TEST YOURSELF WITH THIS WORD GAME



WORD LIST PUZZLE

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Maria Laverne | Peter Maivia |
| Moondog Mayne | Bobby Shane |
| Pampero Firpo | Bob Ellis |
| Pat Patterson | Bobo Brazil |
| Paul Jones | Buddy Colt |
| Ray Stevens | Ivan Putski |
| Rip Hawk | Joe Leduc |
| Victor Rivera | Omar Atlas |
| Tim Woods | Ann Casey |
| Jim Valiant | Dutch Savage |

(Continued on page 56)

Somewhere in this puzzle are the names of 20 top wrestlers which are listed in alphabetical order.

The names in the puzzle read in a straight line. But they can read across from left to right, right to left, going up or down, diagonally down from left to right, diagonally up from left to right, diagonally down from right to left and diagonally up from right to left.

Not all the letters in the puzzle are parts of answers. Some letters are used for more than one name.

When you find the name, circle it. If you don't find the name, keep looking for it. We promise it's in there.

If you find all 20 within 30 minutes, you're doing very well. In the same time, 10 to 15 correct is good and you should be excellent by the next puzzle.

E R S O H I A B P S E N O J L U A P
 U V I C T O R R I V E R A O W E A E
 T L M O P A M L E C D X O N L T F T
 J M A R I A L A V E R N E I P N G E
 K O R S T E N U R W O O L A A A S R
 T O B O B E A N R A C H T M I N M
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 L E L O M T C B S T E N M O O R E P
 I N I G U J O E L E D U C I N G P N
 S E L D O B L I A R C H A M T L C K
 I P O E A M I K S T U P N A V I C R

WORD PUZZLE

E R S O H I A B P S E N O J L U A P
 U V I C T O R R I V E R A O W E A E
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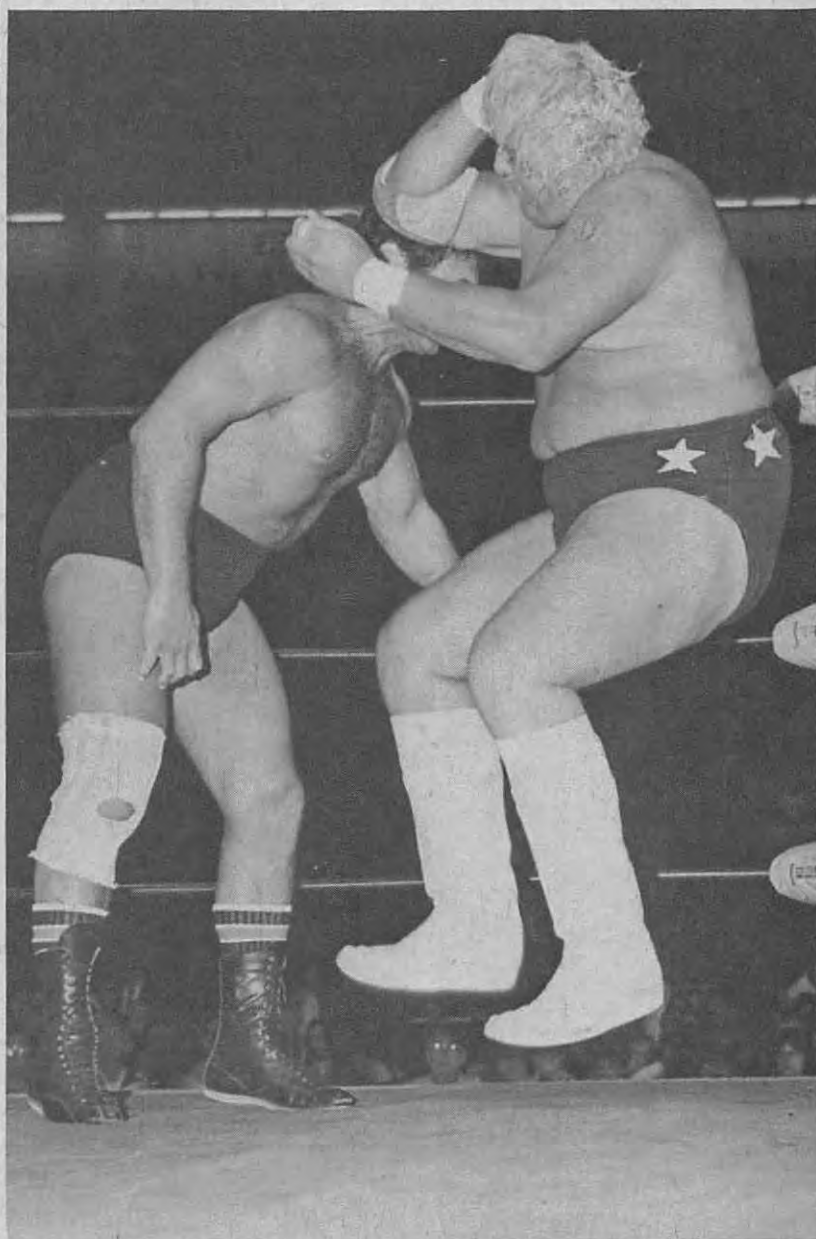
INSIDE WRESTLING

5

capsule profile



DUSTY RHODES



Dusty's entire body is behind an elbowsmash which sends the hapless Professor Malenko crashing to the canvas. Rhodes' remarkable power has caused many opponents to crumple to the canvas, unable to continue defending themselves from Dusty.

ONE OF THE most popular wrestlers in the history of the sport, with fans all over the world... Believes 1976 is his year—the year he will win a championship (“After all, baby, I am the personification of the American Dream”)... In the past few years has changed from being hated by the fans to being one of their favorites... Dreams of eventually becoming the king of all wrestling alliances (“I see a day when all wrestling fans will unite behind me!”)... Once enjoyed a very successful partnership with Dick Murdoch, forming the unbeatable team of The Outlaws... Has victories over many of the most

prominent men in the sport... Has yet to win a clear-cut victory over NWA champion Terry Funk (“I’ve come close a lot of times, but he keeps finding some sneaky way of keeping his title. But that won’t last too much longer!”)... Has had considerable trouble finding a suitable tag team partner since changing his tactics and becoming a fan favorite

... Is known to occasionally lose his temper and become involved in wild, reckless slugfests... His best maneuver is his flying elbow smash... Considered by many to be one of the strongest men wrestling today... Has the kind of determination that can lead him to fulfilling his dreams of a single championship. □

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters,
And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion: BRUNO
SAMMARTINO



1—BRUISER BRODIE

American Wrestling Association



Champion: NICK
BOCKWINKLE



1—BARON VON
RASCHKE

National Wrestling Alliance

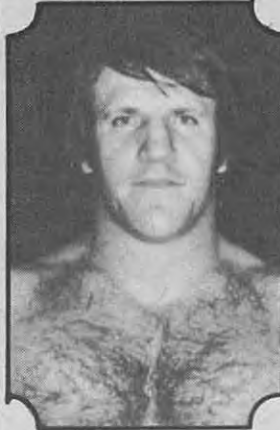


Champion: TERRY
FUNK



1—DUSTY RHODES

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—BRUNO
SAMMARTINO



2—ANDRE THE
GIANT

Tag Teams



1—THE ANDERSON
BROTHERS



Most Hated Wrestlers



1—THE SHEIK



2—ABDULLAH THE
BUTCHER



2—STAN STASIAK

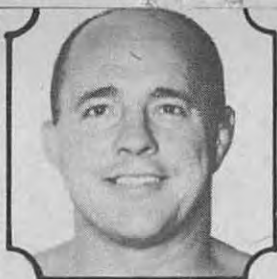


3—STAN HANSEN



4—NIKOLAI
VOLKOFF

5—IVAN PUTSKI
6—CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW
7—BOBO BRAZIL
8—BILLY WHITE
WOLF
9—TOR KAMATA
10—DOUG GILBERT



2—VERNE GAGNE



3—LARRY HENNIG

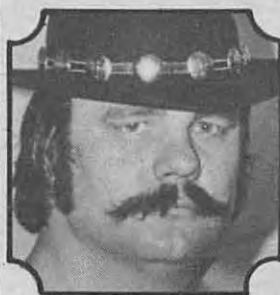


4—JOE LEDUC

5—MAD DOG
VACHON
6—PETER MAIVIA
7—GREG GAGNE
8—BLACKJACK
LANZA
9—BOBBY
DUNCUM
10—JIM BRUNZELL



2—JACK BRISCO



3—BLACKJACK
MULLIGAN



4—THE SHEIK

5—FRITZ VON
ERICH
6—JERRY LAWLER
7—HARLEY RACE
8—DORY FUNK JR.
9—MR.
WRESTLING II
10—BILL WATTS



3—MIL MASCARAS



4—WAHOO
McDANIEL



5—IVAN PUTSKI

6—MR.
WRESTLING II
7—CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW
8—ROCKY
JOHNSON
9—MIKE GRAHAM
10—PEPPER GOMEZ



2—THE MASKED
EXECUTIONERS

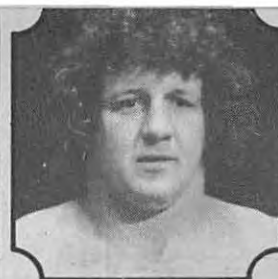


3—BOBBY DUNCUM
& BLACKJACK
LANZA



4—CHIEF
STRONGBOW &
BILLY WHITE
WOLF

5—BOB BACKLUND
& STEVE KEIRN
6—GOLIATH &
BLACK
GORDMAN
7—THE MONGOLS
8—DEAN HO & KEN
MANTELL
9—THE VALIANT
BROTHERS



3—TERRY FUNK



4—STAN HANSEN



5—THE SPOILER

6—NICK
BOCKWINKLE
7—STAN STASIAK
8—ERNIE LADD
9—JERRY LAWLER
10—MR. FUGI

THE WINNE MASCARAS MASK CONTEST!



HERE'S THE WINNING COMPOSITION!

I would like to win Mil Mascaras' mask because I have always wondered how it feels to wear such a mask. That prize would be even more exciting to win, knowing it came from a great wrestler like Mil. Every time I see him at the Charlotte Coliseum, I want to ask him for his extra mask, the one which he always wears. I would like to win that particular mask because Mil must have put up his hardest fight to win the Americas belt, as well as save his mask and identity. To win Mil's mask would be the greatest thrill of my life.

Mil's greatest fan,
Ronnie Lyman

Ronnie Lyman is serious in victory as he holds up the mask won for his winning composition in the "Win A Mil Mascaras Mask Contest." Ronnie is also holding up a copy of INSIDE WRESTLING, the same issue which announced the most popular wrestling contest ever!

R OF THE

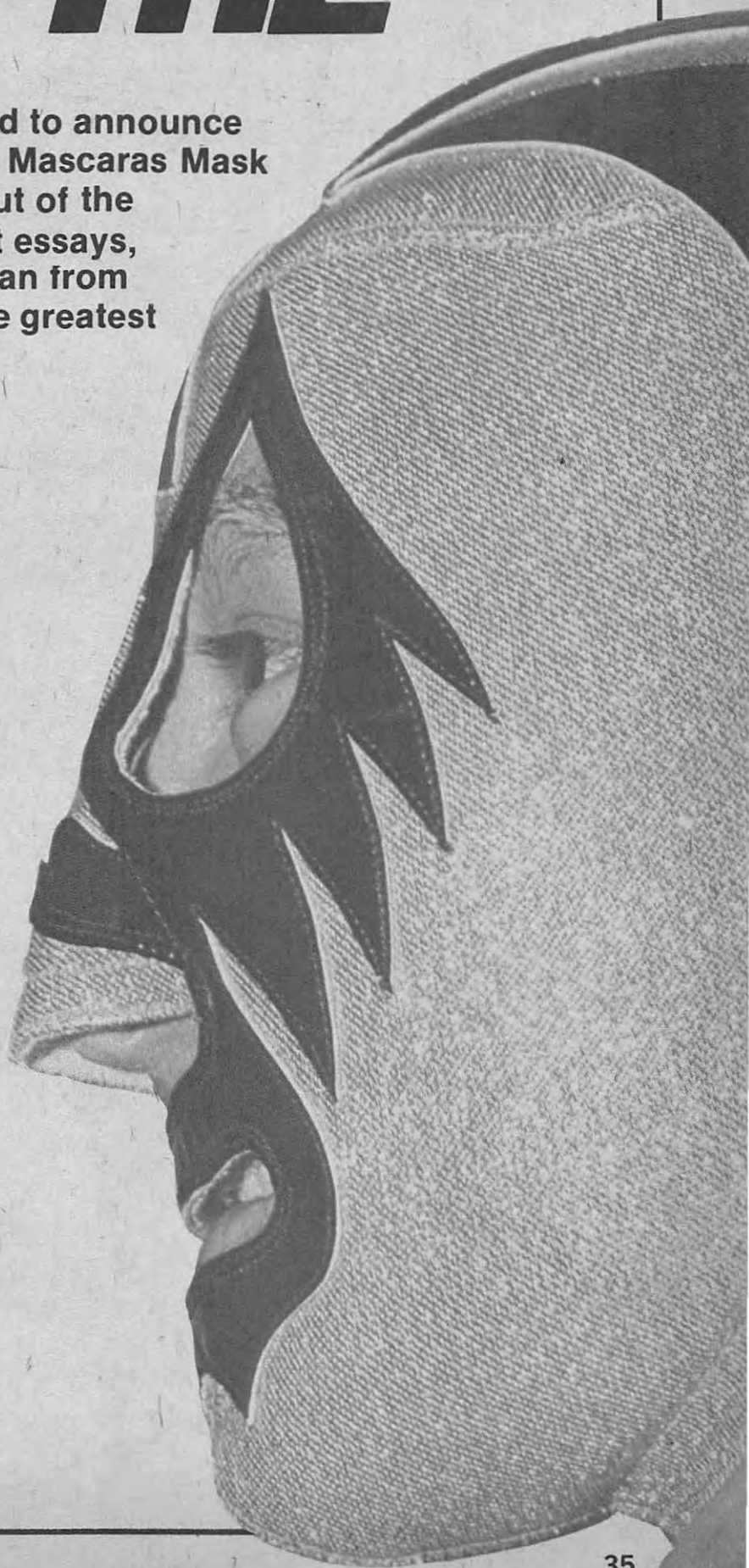
INSIDE WRESTLING is proud to announce the winner of the "Win A Mil Mascaras Mask Contest"—Ronnie Lyman! Out of the many thousands of excellent essays, Mil has chosen this young man from North Carolina to possess the greatest prize a fan can own—one of Mil Mascaras' own masks!

BY MIL MASCARAS

I WOULD LIKE to tell everyone that this was the hardest decision I have ever faced in my life. I read through thousands of excellent entries from my fans all over world, hoping to find that one certain special composition which had that extra winning quality. I believe Ronnie Lyman's entry is that winning composition.

What impressed me most about Ronnie's composition was the sheer honesty and sincerity inherent throughout. It was very clear to me that he wanted the mask as an entity in and of itself. He didn't want the prize to use for his own wrestling matches. He didn't want to mount it on a wall and relegate it to some forgotten memory. He wanted the mask for what it meant to me, and therefore, what the mask meant to himself. This was exactly the quality I was looking for.

More than anyone else, Ronnie had the insight to realize I had to put forth an almost superhuman struggle to win the Americas belt. He understood the special meaning behind this mask, and the honor associated with it. It was clear to me immediately that Ronnie Lyman was the person who most deserved





It is with great pleasure that Johnny Powers substitutes for his friend, Mil Mascaras, in presenting the stunning mask to winner Ronnie Lyman, as IWA announcer, Charlie Babbs, looks on (above). After Johnny left to prepare for his match, Babbs offers the lucky young man congratulations (below). It was an exciting end to a contest that attracted entries from all over the globe!



Mil pours over a small portion of the thousands of letters he received. The difficulty in finding a winner amongst all the great entries was enormous!

this particular mask.

My only regret is that I was not able to personally meet Ronnie to award him this prize, since I was in South America defending the IWA title at the time. I want to thank my good friend Johnny Powers for filling in for me on this occasion. I would also like to thank the president of the IWA, Dennis Chestnut, for making time on his wrestling television program for the awarding of this mask. Charlie Babbs, the IWA announcer, deserves special thanks for taking time out to be present for the award ceremonies. These three men are very special people to me.

In addition, I want to thank each and every fan who sent in a composition to this contest. I realize every single one of you spent many long, hard hours composing entries which you hoped would win. If I could have awarded masks to all of you, I would have done so. Unfortunately, the rules of the contest dictated that I could only award one mask for one very special entry.

In closing, I would like to wish Ronnie Lyman all the luck in the world. I truly hope he enjoys and honors this great prize. May it bring him as much luck and prestige as it brought me. Thank you. □

THE STORY

BEHIND THE HEADLINE



Vol. 1 No. 5

THERE HAVE BEEN many times when Fred Blassie has been angry with WWF champion Bruno Sammartino. But perhaps the time he was angriest was June 26, 1964, the night he beat Bruno, yet wasn't awarded the belt.

In a ferocious match lasting over 43 minutes, Sammartino valiantly defended his championship against Blassie. At 42 minutes into the battle, Bruno captured Blassie in a bearhug. Fred submitted and Sammartino released the hold, thinking he had just won the match. But Bruno didn't know the referee was not in the ring—he had been flipped out of the action a few moments earlier and was struggling to get back inside the ropes. According to WWF rules, the referee must be in the ring to call an end to the battle.

Blassie seized his opportunity. After Bruno had released him from the bearhug, he snuck up behind the WWF champion and kicked him in the groin. Bruno fell to the canvas, then rolled out to the ring apron. By this time the referee had returned to the ring. He proceeded to count out Sammartino. Fred Blassie was awarded the match!

A near-riot was started after the referee announced Blassie as the winner of the match. Fred walked triumphantly back to his dressing room, confident he had just won the WWF title.

But when he was safely back in his dressing room, Blassie was informed his victory was a hollow one; he had won the match, but he had failed to win the championship. According to the WWF rules, a count-out does not cause a change in title. There must be a pin or submission.

Blassie was furious, but there was nothing he could do. He knew he had beaten Bruno Sammartino, but he had not been given the prize he coveted—the belt. □

cores Disputed Win Over Sammartino

Blassie Uncrowned and Unpopular Mat Char

By FRED CRANWELL

Fred Blassie is the self-declared "uncrowned champion of the world" today after his disputed victory over Bruno Sammartino at Jersey City's Roosevelt Stadium last night.

Blassie, the black-hearted villain from Santa Monica, Calif., was awarded the decision after referee Tommy Geldhauser counted out Sammartino who was crouched on the ring apron after being kicked in the groin.

GELDHAUSER DIDN'T see the kick, however, nor did he see Blassie submit to a Sammartino bear hug, moments before. Tommy didn't see the action because he wasn't in the ring. Geldhauser was flipped from the squared circle in a freak accident just a minute or two before the end. The end came after 43 minutes, and five seconds.

"I said the bear hug on him and he said he had enough," Sammartino said afterwards. "That's when I let him down. I didn't know the referee was out of the ring. After I put him down, he snuck up behind me and kicked me in the groin."

Blassie, who caused a sensation among the fans when he left the ring, started another moment of pandemonium in the dressing room when told he didn't crown Sammartino.

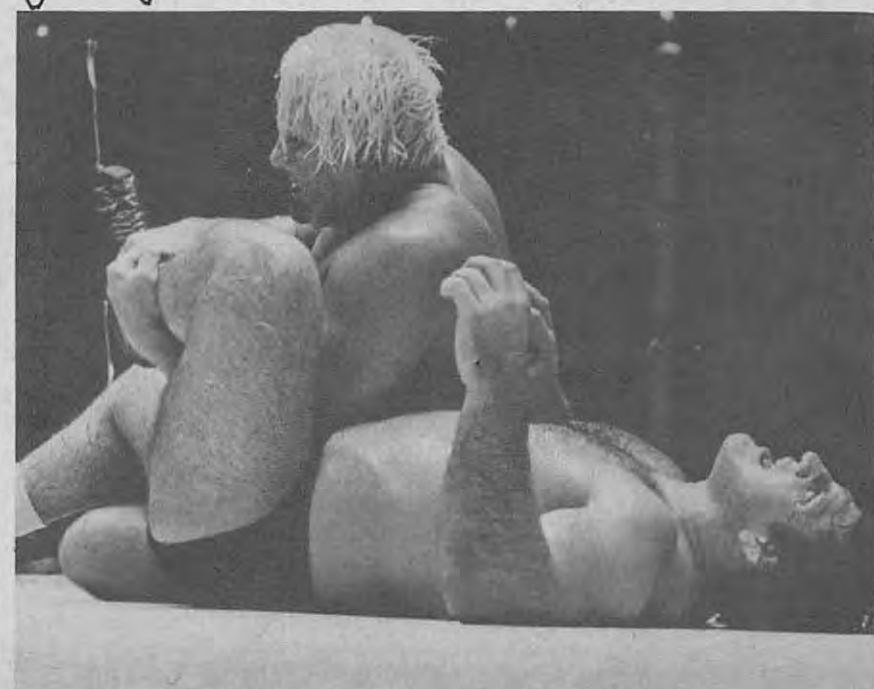
"WHO SAID SO?" the blond bomber demanded. Someone pointed to the referee. Blassie then headed at Geldhauser who still was in a state of shock from the accident. Blassie had to be restrained by Cowboy Bill Watts and Arnold Skoland. The rules stipulate that a champion must be pinned or submit in order to lose his belt. Sammartino was counted out on the ring apron.

"That's a crazy rule they concocted on the spur of the moment," Blassie insisted. "The whole thing was crazy. That Sammartino must have the biggest neck in the world. I kick him in the neck and he grabs his groin. I won fair and square. I proved my point. I'm the greatest. Sammartino has no guts and I proved it out there tonight."

WILLIE GILZENBERG, president of the World Wrestling Federation, said there was a "tearful bout" cause



Bruno Sammartino plunges at challenger Fred Blassie.





JACK BRISCO



GENE KINISKI



BUDDY ROGERS



HARLEY RACE



BABA THE GIANT

Five Former NWA Kings B

“TERRY FUNK IS A DISGRACE TO THE TITLE”

WHEN WE DECIDED to get former NWA champions' opinions on the current king, Terry Funk, there was never any intention of this being a condemnation of Funk's reign. We had no idea of the deep anger and hatred the former champion have for Terry's tactics. However, we intend to print the truth, no matter who it may hurt.

Our first shock came when we contacted the legendary Buddy Rogers. Of any of the former champions, we

expected Rogers would be the man who would appreciate Terry's ruthless title defenses. Perhaps time has mellowed Rogers; perhaps we've been underestimating Terry's cruelty. Whatever it is, we found Rogers' responses astonishing.

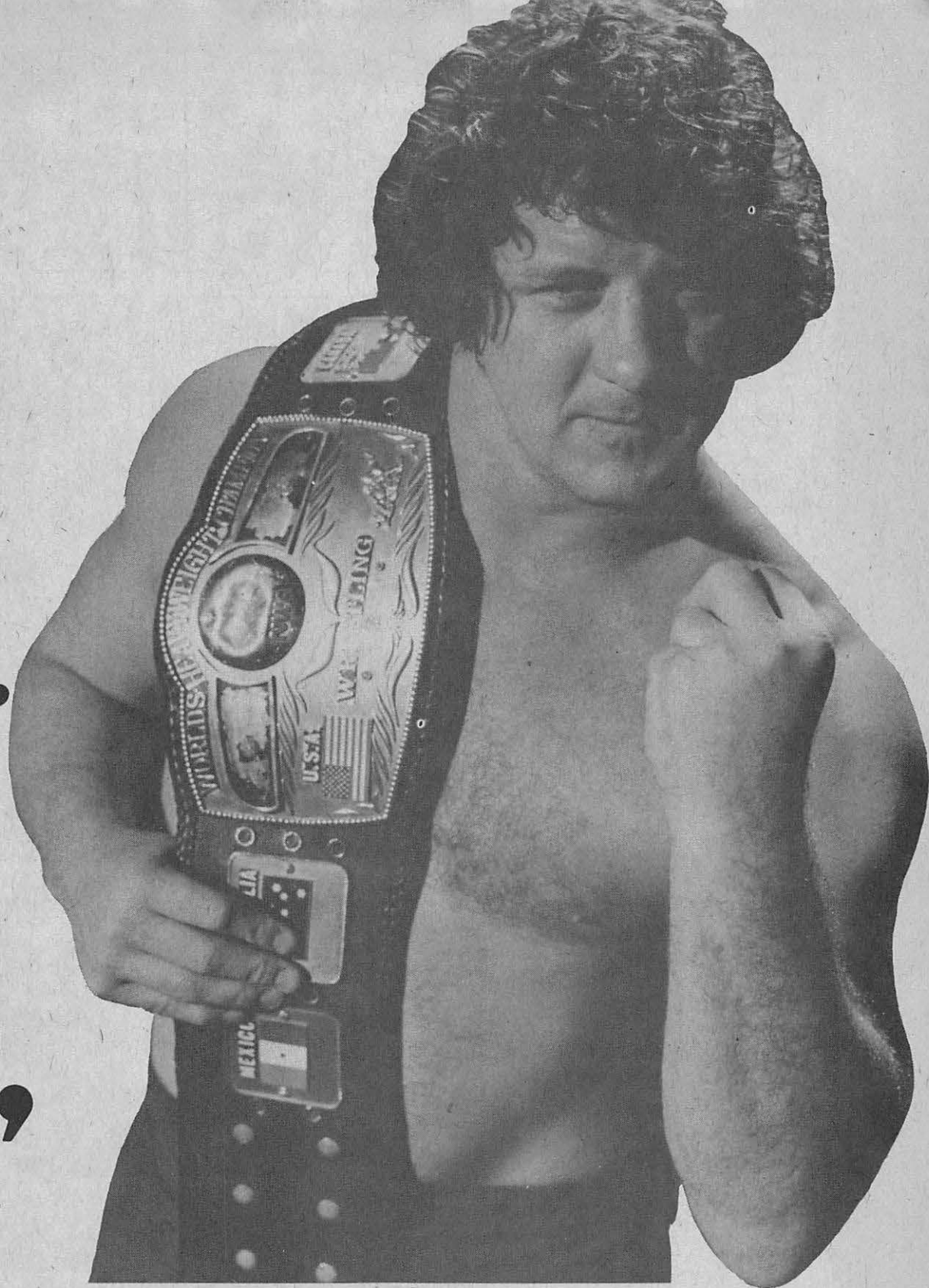
"You'd better make up your mind," Rogers began, "do you want to talk about a champion or do you want to discuss Funk? As far as I'm concerned, Funk is no champion! He's a disgrace, a bully who got lucky. He is to

wrestling as Gorilla Monsoon is to ballet.

"I just can't take his championship seriously. As far as his skill is concerned, it's non-existent. It's embarrassing to know he holds the title once honored by Buddy 'Nature Boy' Rogers. I occasionally see him to get a good laugh. But when I realize he's the man with my title, I feel like crying. He's a disgrace."

So how did Terry get to be
(Continued on page 54)

**er
last:
NK
ACE
LE!"**



In an unprecedented move, five very different ex-champions agree to publicly express their disgust at the current NWA king's behavior. This may be the most controversial wrestling story ever printed—and we'll be reeling from its repercussions for months to come!

TOP WRESTLE

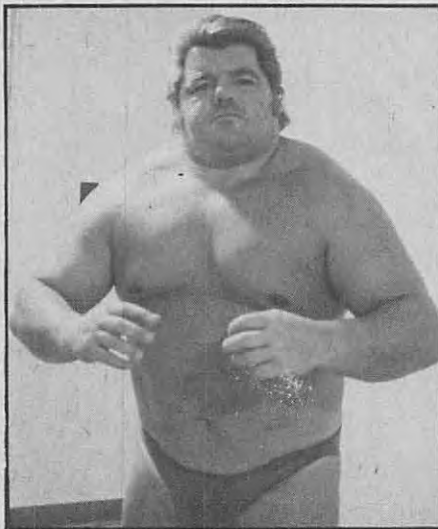
YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Well, each month in **INSIDE WRESTLING**, the sport's greatest stars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the stars, send it to: **ASK THE STARS, INSIDE WRESTLING, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571**

The "Question of the Month" is:

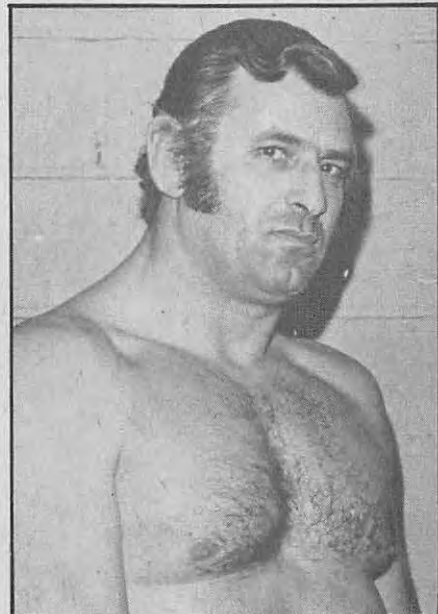
"If you had your choice of an opponent you would most like to defeat, who would you choose and why?"

Submitted by:
David Abel;
Brooklyn, New York



CRUSHER VERDU

"I used to like Butcher Vachon, but now I want to destroy that bum! Ever since he started teaming with Chavo Guerrero, he has become totally scientific, and this I cannot stand."



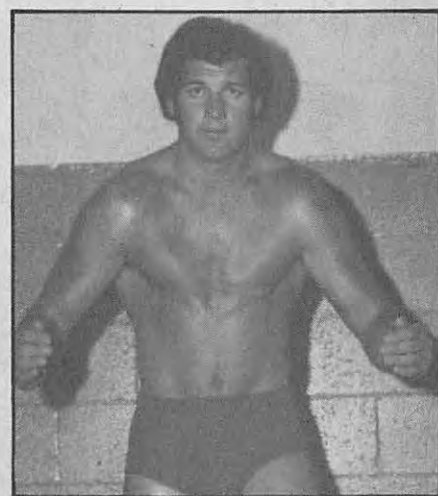
BARON SCICLUNA

"I want to defeat Ivan Putski because he's a menace to great scientific wrestlers like me."



DUSTY RHODES

"There is only one man I want to defeat—Terry Funk. Although I have beaten him in non-title matches, in title matches he has beaten me on mere technicalities. It is time I won a championship victory over him."



GREG GAGNE

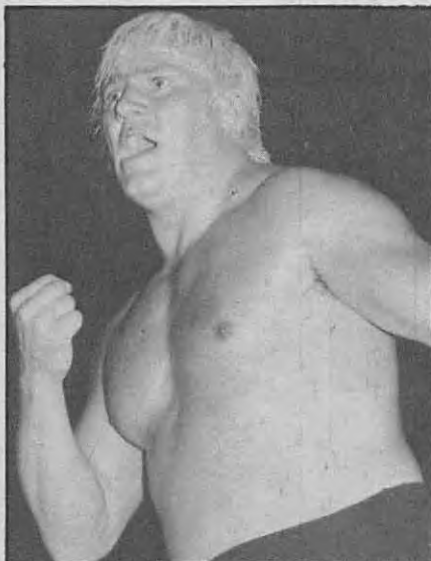
"For the honor of my family, and for my own personal honor, I would like to have a chance to defeat Nick Bockwinkel. He has brought shame to the AWA title my father held so long. It is time to restore the lost honor!"

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



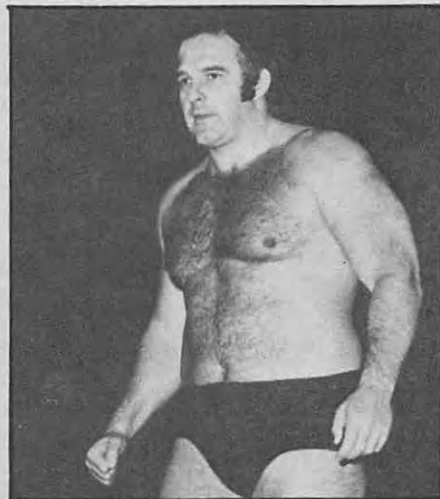
STAN STASIAK

"That swine, Mr. Wrestling II, should be thrown out of wrestling, and I am just the man to do it. I will have my chance, just wait and see."



PAT PATTERSON

"Without question, the one man I would like to defeat is Mr. Fugi. He has earned my wrath many times. It is time I finished him off once and for all!"



MARK LEWIN

"Of all the men I have ever wrestled, there is only one I would like to get a clear-cut, final victory over—The Sheik. Although we have battled many times, he is the one person I would truly like to see driven out of the sport!"



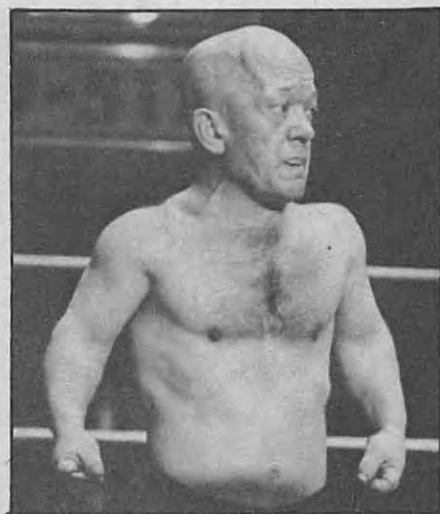
ANDRE THE GIANT

"The one man I would really like to defeat more than anyone else is Ernie Ladd. We have battled a few times and all our matches have ended on confusing technicalities. Now I want a clear-cut victory."



BULLDOG BROWER

"That slimy Mexican, Mil Mascaras, should be defeated and crippled once and for all. He would be nothing without his mask, and I aim to be the man to unmask him."



SKY LOW LOW

"I know this is going to sound strange, but I've always had this fantasy of defeating Andre the Giant. It would prove once and for all that I am as great an athlete as anyone else in this sport." □

Like a vampire sucking lifeblood, California is slowly destroying Pedro Morales. The popular mat star must flee the area before he becomes the most pathetic figure in wrestling history!

WHAT PEDRO MORALES MUST DO TO SAVE HIS CAR



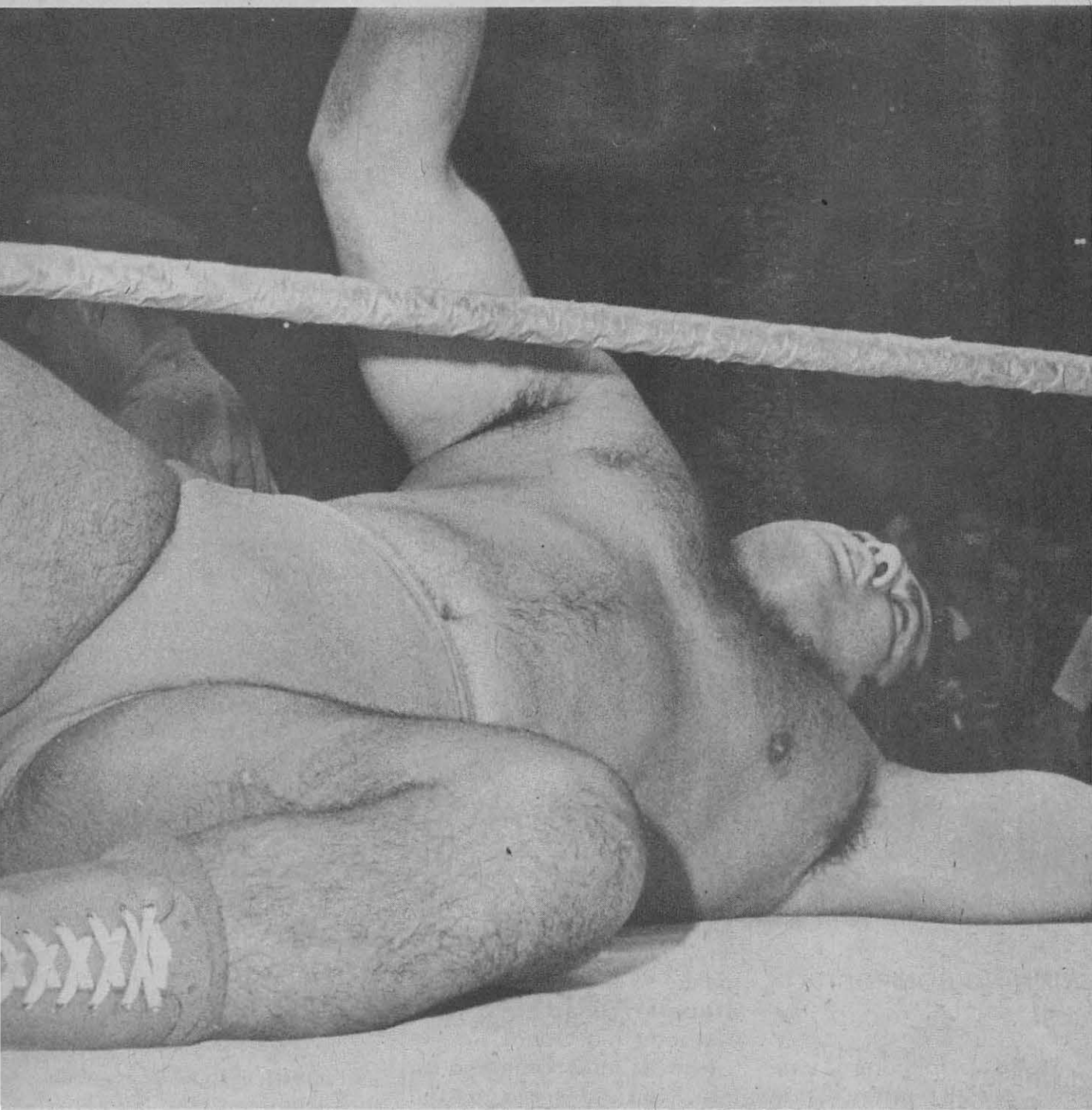
IT WAS STILL too early for neo-realistic artist Robert Ramey to tell if his opening was a success. The gallery was filled with friends, critics, and collectors. Ramey was having a tough time keeping his anxiety under control.

Realizing what his new friend was going through, Pedro Morales walked up to Ramey and sympathized, "I

know what you're going through. I feel the same way before a match, because I don't know what will happen and all I can do is worry. Each time I forget I am probably going to survive it just like I survived all the other times. And anyway, these paintings are not only great art, but they're downright commercial. Can you handle being very wealthy and famous?"

Ramey smiled and placed his hand on Pedro's broad shoulder. Though he only knew the wrestler for six months, the two men had become fast friends. In fact, Pedro had become a permanent fixture in the intellectual-academic scene of San Francisco.

Joining the pair was the beautiful poetess, Claudia Carlson, whose latest book, *Time Stumbled*, has the critics



FEER

Above: Is the good life the reason Pedro is lying on the canvas after being pounded by an opponent? Right: Pedro is still a grappler with the style and skill to be a great champ.

comparing her to Edna St. Vincent Millay.

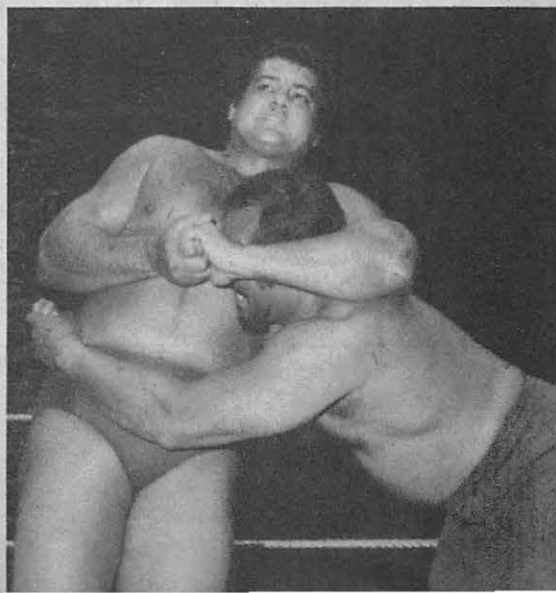
"You're so much like Goethe," she told Pedro, "so very much like the greatest of all German poets, the greatest of all poets. But Goethe has been gone for too, too long. I live knowing I was born 200 years too late for the greatest love of my life."

With that, Claudia went into a

corner to weep quietly. When she compares you to Goethe, it's her way of saying she likes you. Unfortunately, it also sends her into a deep depression knowing she will never have the chance to meet the great German poet.

Pedro was familiar with eccentricities of these people. He has spent most of his time with them recently.

(Continued on page 56)



HERE IS W FAN OF TH



WINNING COMPOSITION

There are millions of wrestling fans all over the United States. However, I feel that I deserve the honor of being the "Wrestling Fan of the Month."

To me, wrestling is the most exciting and entertaining sport in the world today. There are many great wrestling stars and the thing that

makes it great is that each grappler uses his own methods and tactics.

I never miss wrestling on television and I try to go to all of the matches in my area whenever possible.

I think wrestling is the greatest sport in the world, and with the help of the fans, I know it will continue to be so for many years to come.

JANICE SODAITIS
Merrick, New York

are the wrestlers, referees, promoters and fans. These people are great because they respect the individuality of each person.

I selected Janice's composition over all the other wonderful submissions because I thought Janice best understood the appreciation of individual abilities. What impressed me most was her statement, "... the thing that makes it so great is that each grappler uses his own methods and tactics." She delights in both the sport and the special skills of its participants.

Every wrestler wants the fans to appreciate him or her for their own special skills. At the same time, we want to be known as part of a great sport. We cherish fans who recognize us in both areas. That's why I finally selected Janice. As far as I'm concerned, she's just what wrestlers want in a fan.

Many people mentioned the same things Janice did, though none stressed it as much as this month's winner. It wasn't easy selecting a winner, but I'm sure I picked the right one. Janice wrote what I wanted to read.

Also, Janice is one of the few who realizes wrestling has a future as well as a past and a present. She recognizes the

GUEST JUDGE: SUE GREEN

ANYONE WHOSE LIFE revolves around the wrestling

community will tell you what a wonderful congregation of people it is. Included in this group

WRESTLING'S THE MONTH

fans' obligation to help keep wrestling a dynamic, vibrant sport. Fans are a very important part of the wrestling community. Janice understands this. This alone would be enough to make her my choice.

Janice states that she is one of millions of wrestling fans. She knows she's a part of the whole, an important part. She recognizes the fans must be individuals as well as the wrestlers. She could not hope to be wrestling fans of the month without the excitement generated by the millions of others. Few people realized they could be the top fan only if they were part of the whole, not a separate individual disconnected from the rest of the crowd.

In closing, I'd like to say something about my choosing a woman. A lot of men will probably say a woman will choose another woman over a man. I know the sex of an individual would not influence my opinion, but in this case that didn't even come into consideration. I didn't know the name of the contestant until after I'd chosen the composition—all names were blacked-out by the editors. I had no idea whether I was choosing a man or woman as the winner. □

HOW YOU CAN BECOME WRESTLING'S FAN OF THE THE MONTH

If you think you deserve this honor, simply send us a photo of yourself and a 100-word essay telling why you're the best fan. This can take any form from straight narrative to a poem. Photos cannot be returned.

The entries will be judged by our staff and a different wrestling star each month. The grappler will also tell why he voted the way he did, which may be the most revealing article about a wrestler you'll ever read.

Remember, the contest is called "Wrestling Fan of the Month," not "A Wrestler's Fan of the Month." This contest is intended to honor a sport, not a particular participant.

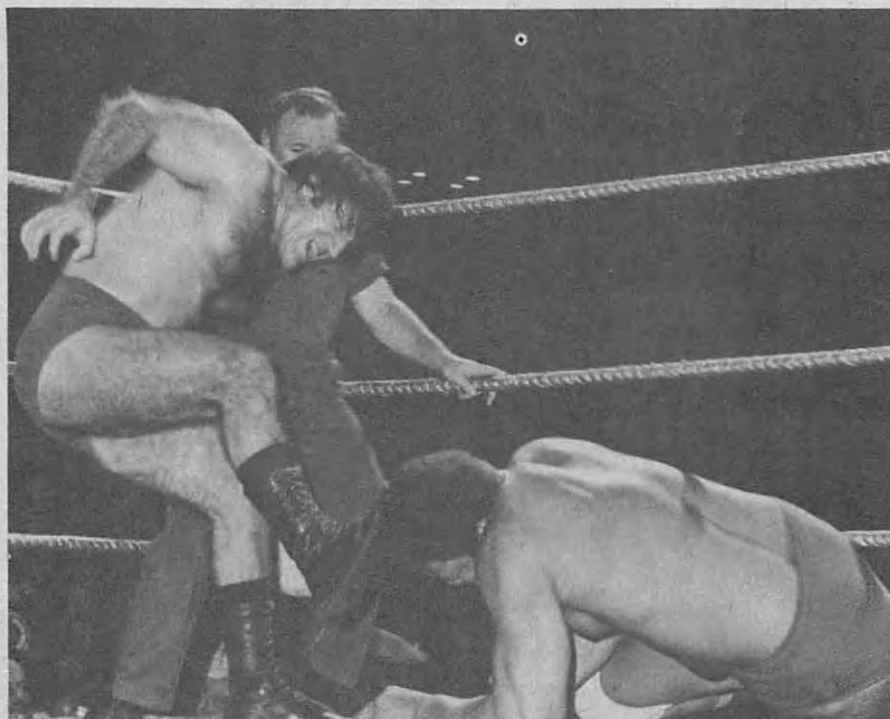
So while we admire those who work long and selflessly on their favorite wrestler's fan magazine, that's not a qualification in this contest. Fan club workers are rightfully honored elsewhere.

Without the fan, wrestling would wither and die. Because of the fans, wrestling has become the most popular sport in the world. It's about time the fans receive the recognition they deserve.

As soon as possible, send your photos and essays to:

TOP FAN CONTEST
c/o INSIDE WRESTLING
Box 58
Rockville Centre, N.Y.
11571

For years, people have wondered why scientific, honorable wrestlers never seem to have a shot at Bruno Sammartino's WWF title. Is it just coincidence—or the sneakiest plot ever foisted on the wrestling public?



Bruno stomps on Ernie Ladd in a no-holds-barred brawl. Ladd is one of the more roughhouse wrestlers Bruno has faced in recent years. Big Ernie is famous for his rulebreaking tactics. Was Ladd given a title shot because his style was perfect for Bruno?

MOST FANS IN wrestling acknowledge the greatness of WWF champion Bruno Sammartino. He has become a living legend, an image built upon the foundation of multitudes of men he has beaten during his wrestling career. Many people say he is the greatest wrestler in the history of the sport.

Yet even living legends have their detractors—people who refuse to acknowledge any man's greatness no matter what proof they have to the contrary. And these people do have a point: no man should become so legendary that we do not occasionally look behind the image to take a look at the man within.

So when some of Sammartino's detractors suggested this magazine confirm some lingering suspicions they had been having, we agreed to investigate and review some aspects of Bruno Sammartino's career.

The first thing we discovered was that Bruno Sammartino is above any suspicious actions. Even outside the wrestling arena, Bruno truly does live up to his image as a living legend. But

DO THE PROMOTERS PROTECT BRUNO SAMMARTINO

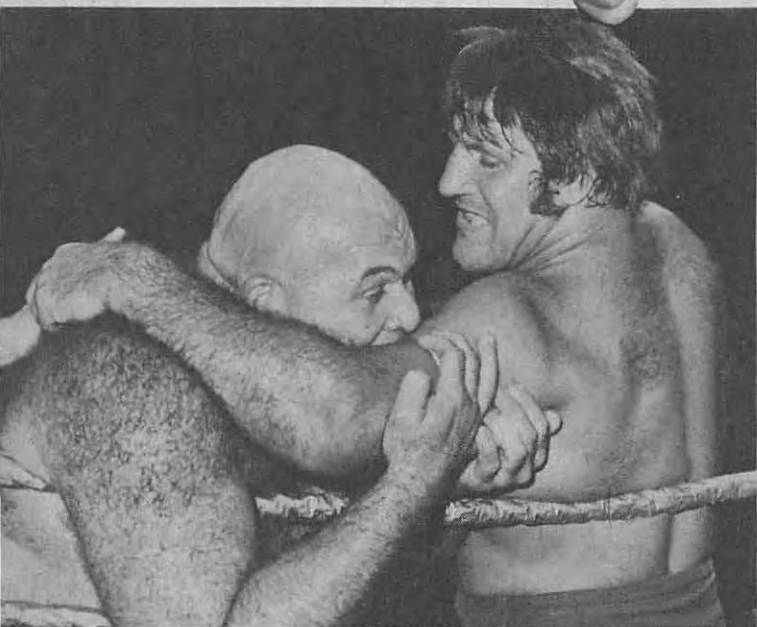
the same cannot necessarily be said for some of those who surround him.

Over the past few years, Bruno has proven his wrestling greatness in battles against such rulebreakers as Spiros Arion, Ivan Koloff, Superstar Billy Graham, and Stan Hansen. Yet if one looks carefully at the pattern set in these matches, it is evident that Bruno often must resort to brawling tactics in order to win. And since his historic battle against Pedro Morales—which ended in a draw—Sammartino has only wrestled men who are known for using less-than-legal tactics.

When asked about the type of men he is usually confronted with, Bruno simply replies, "I only wrestle the men I am matched with. I do not make the matches—the promoters do that."

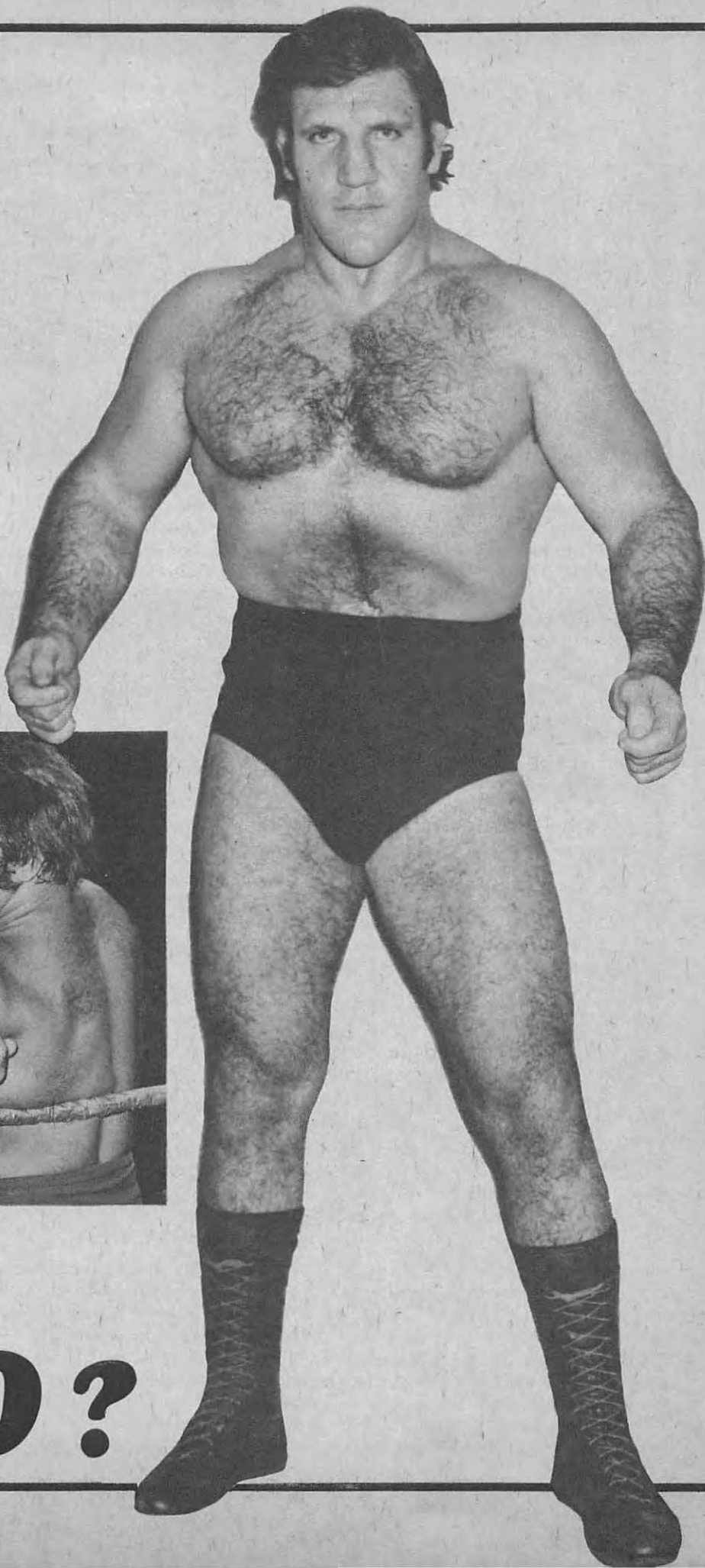
In order to discover why Sammartino has only been matched with men who are known to be rule-breakers, an examination must first be made of the wrestling style Bruno has employed over the past few years.

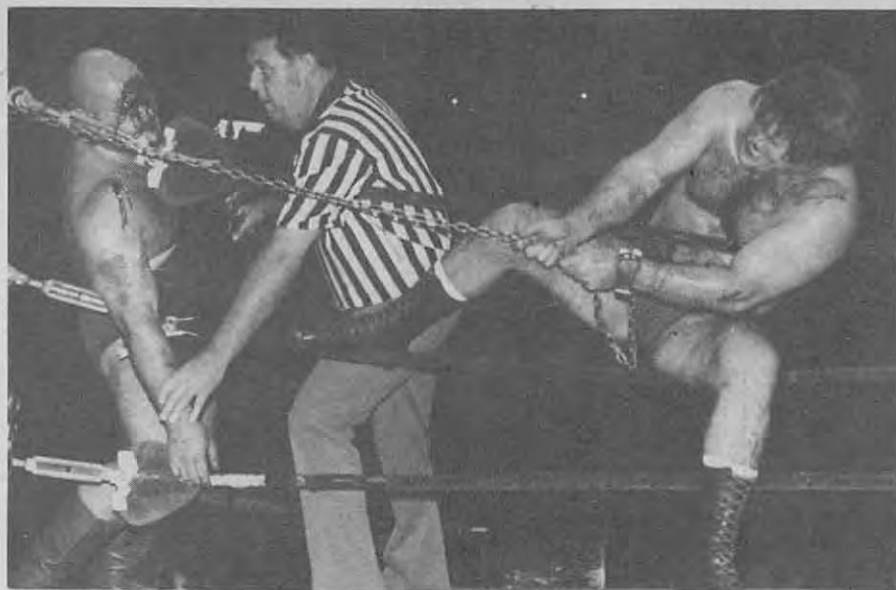
When Bruno first became WWF champion in 1963, he battled all types of wrestlers, and could adapt his style accordingly. In those days, it was



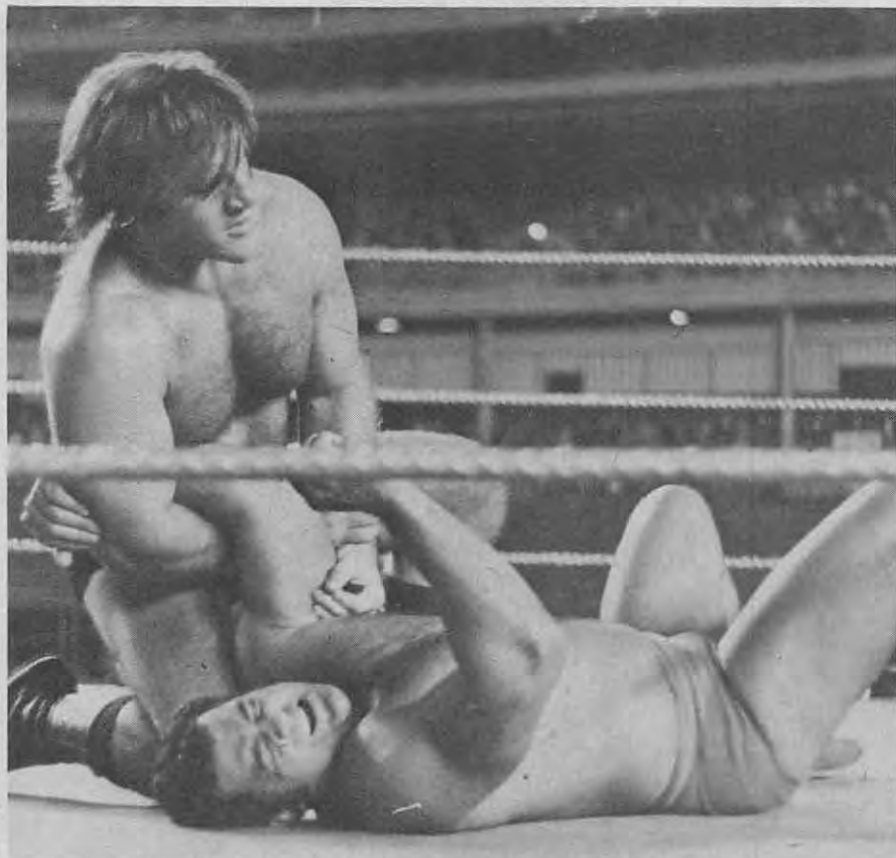
Bruno suffers a bite on the arm from George "The Animal" Steele (above). No one can deny the WWF mat king has met the most savage men in the sport today.

RTINO ?





Above: Blood flowed like water in a savage chain match between Ivan Koloff and Bruno, one of the most brutal bouts in the past five years. Below: Bruno Sammartino wrestles Pedro Morales to a draw in the last championship match Bruno has had against a purely scientific wrestler. This match took place when Pedro was champ.



another scientific wrestler—Pedro Morales—it became clear Bruno had lost something he had once had.

In that match, in which Bruno used the best of his skills, Sammartino could only go to a draw. Bruno saw nothing wrong with this, but the promoters could see the handwriting on the wall. They felt that against scientific wrestlers, Bruno could no longer do as well as he could against rulebreakers. It is rumored the promoters devised a plan for reducing the risk of Sammartino losing his championship—they would only match him against men who were known to be rulebreakers. That way, Bruno could use his own brawling tactics in return, and keep a firm grasp on his WWF title. In other words, the promoters began protecting Bruno against scientific wrestlers!

There have been many wrestlers who have desired a title shot against Bruno Sammartino and have been turned down, simply because they were scientific wrestlers. Two of the most notable examples are Chief Jay Strongbow and Ivan Putski. Fans have demanded that both men be allowed to have a shot at Bruno's title. Even Sammartino has expressed interest in such battles. But the promoters have turned down these requests. They have strong suspicions about what would happen when Bruno was confronted with a strictly scientific wrestler. They fear he could lose his title.

One promoter, who wished to remain unidentified, told this magazine, "Sure, there is a system to how we make matches for Bruno Sammartino. We pit him against the roughest men in the association. It always makes for good wrestling."

But another promoter disagreed with that statement. He told us, "There really is no conspiracy to match Sammartino against only rulebreakers. That it has happened so often is just a coincidence. A match between Ivan Putski and Bruno Sammartino might be quite interesting. However, I don't think I will be the one to sign it."

So the question remains: Are the promoters protecting the WWF champion against scientific wrestlers, or is it just a coincidence that Bruno always wrestles men who employ less-than-legal tactics? No matter what, the promoters can never diminish the fact that Bruno is a living legend, and will come out on top no matter who he wrestles. But someday it would be nice if Sammartino battled another scientific wrestler. □

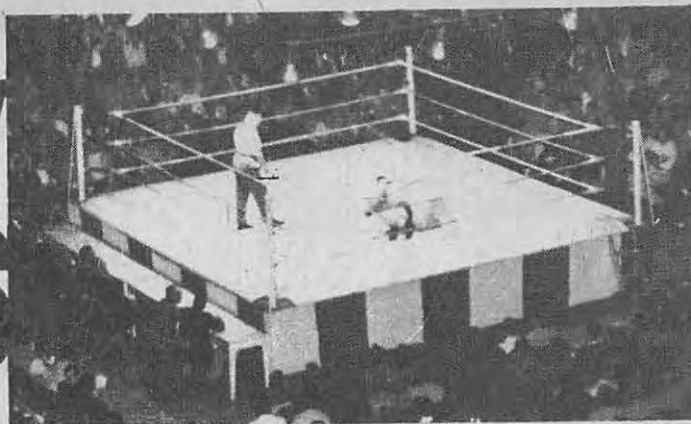
usually the rulebreakers who gave Bruno the most trouble. He started training so that he could perfect maneuvers to combat this type of wrestler.

Soon enough, Bruno had learned how brawling could be the most effective tactic for him to use. It became standard operating procedure. He began to lose touch with his more scientific skills, simply because he no longer and much need for them.

And now, Bruno only faces brawlers. He still uses many scientific maneuvers to defeat his opponents. But he is at his best when he is brawling.

This whole evolution had come about by coincidences in match-making. In the early days, Bruno had to face and defeat some of the toughest and cruelest men in the WWF, and he adapted his style to fit them. But after his more recent battle against

SINCERELY YOURS



BAN HANSEN

I think Stan Hansen is the dirtiest wrestler I have ever seen. The only reason he wins is because of his lariat. We have already seen him cripple Bruno Sammartino and Ivan Putski.

I found your article "First Bruno... Then Putski... Who Will Stan Hansen Cripple Next?" (INSIDE WRESTLING/September 1976) very interesting and true. Hansen does not win his matches with skill, but rather with his loaded elbow pad.

I was watching wrestling one night when Stan Hansen was being interviewed, and I saw coins fall out of his arm pad. After that despicable performance, and after what he does to his opponents, how is he allowed to stay in wrestling?

DARRELL JANIS
South Jamesport, N.Y.



Stan Hansen has Ivan Putski writhing on the canvas after falling victim to Hansen's "lariat." Readers are enraged that Hansen can continue to use a loaded elbowpad and cripple more great athletes.

THAT WAS MIL?

I have just finished reading "The Week Mil Mascaras Wrestled Without His Mask" (INSIDE WRESTLING/September 1976), and I felt I had to write to you.

I consider myself really lucky now to be among the people who saw the great masked grappler without his mask. A few months ago, I was visiting friends in California, and I remember seeing "Ricardo Duran" wrestle. He was an excellent grappler, I thought, and I felt he would become a superstar of the sport in very little time. Unfortunately, I never heard about him again, until your story came out.

The article proved what I have always known about Mil Mascaras: He is a brave, courageous man, and he will always have the love of the fans.

If Mil should one day be unmasked, it will not matter. Your article proved the fans will still give him their approval, even as "Ricardo Duran!"

DAVID RABINO
Detroit, Mich.

BRUNO'S CHANCE

I'm really glad Bruno Sammartino had the chance to finally mouth off to all the wise guys in "Bruno Sammartino Blasts... I Am Not a Dirty Wrestler!" (INSIDE WRESTLING/August 1976). It's about time he shut up the bad guys. I am sick and tired of everyone putting him down.

I constantly see pictures of him being beaten and abused. Why don't you show pictures where he is winning, and not when he is losing? Give Bruno a break. He deserves it!

ANN DERRICKSON
Morristown, N.J.

ABOUT THOSE CRAZIES

At one point I took the idiots who riot at wrestling matches lightly, considering them a common and minor annoyance. I figured that some people, overcome by the goings-on in the ring,

needed to vent their emotions more physically than most others. But now, my outlook has changed drastically.

I was sitting at ringside in Madison Square Garden, enjoying myself immensely, when something whizzed past Fred Blassie's head in my direction. I ducked, and the lady sitting behind me was hit right in the eye with a roll of pennies.

The picture of that lady screaming as two security guards helped her out of the arena is still vivid in my mind, more than two years later (this happened in June 1974). I realized then that these degenerate worms who try to get at their most hated wrestler often get innocent people hurt instead. Even though it was obvious that the incident had been an accident, some poor woman's blood had been needlessly spilled by some idiot's attempt at per-

(Continued on page 62)

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NICK BOCKWINKLE

(Continued from Page 27)



Bobby is delighted to be manager of the AWA champion, Nick Bockwinkel (above). A costly pleasure, Bobby has had to take some pretty severe punishment (left) in his capacity as the manager of one of the most hated men in the sport. Heenan pays with his blood for Bockwinkel's success.

was really quite upset by Bobby's assertions. He has never denied Bobby was instrumental in guiding him in his career. But Nick has always been an independent thinker, quite capable of making his own decisions. He was very hurt by the story.

According to the rumor, Nick Bockwinkel did what he thought he had to do—he fired his manager!

It has not yet been definitely established if Bockwinkel really did give Heenan the ax for that story. But it is clear the relationship between the wrestler and the manager are extremely strained.

Soon after the accusations came to light, Nick stopped paying Heenan. This fact was discovered by accident. No one has denied it. In fact, neither Bockwinkel or Heenan is saying any-

thing now about the incident.

At a recent match, Bobby was still in Nick's corner. But Nick practically ignored his manager during the entire battle. Heenan would shout instructions to his wrestler, but Bockwinkel did not seem to be listening to anything Bobby said. He battled the way he thought was best and won.

Heenan has been known to interfere in Nick's matches in the past. This simply cannot be denied. But during this match Bobby hardly stirred from his position by the ring. It was painfully clear to those watching that Heenan was trying to prove he was a good manager. And he was trying to prove this to only one man—Nick Bockwinkel!

After the match, Nick totally ignored his manager. He wouldn't

even allow Bobby into his dressing room. When reporters tried to talk to him about Heenan, Nick changed the subject. Bobby was seen leaving the arena alone. He simply refused to talk to anyone about anything.

Could this mean the end of the relationship between Bockwinkle and Bobby Heenan? That possibility is likely. Yet friends of both men have been trying to bring the two back together and work things out, according to the story now being circulated. There has been no word as to how successful these efforts have been.

The chances are good that a reconciliation can be made, if the talks between Heenan and Bockwinkle are handled carefully. While it is granted



Heenan is happy now, but is he being forced out by a troubled and very ambitious Bockwinkle?

Bobby should never have proclaimed to the world that he was the sole reason why Nick won the AWA title, he did mention some important points. He was very helpful in teaching Bockwinkle some of his best maneuvers. He has given a big contribution to Nick's career. There is no way of telling where Nick would be without his manager.

But whatever happens, it is clear there will soon be a profound change in Nick Bockwinkle. If the rumor turns out to be true, and he has fired Heenan, he will have to find another manager who is not used to his style. If the rumor turns out to be false, he will have a lot of explaining to do when he has to start talking about his dependence on Bobby Heenan.

No matter what happens, there is bound to be a lot of strife in the AWA in the next few months. And there will be no way to stop it. □

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



Chief Jay Strongbow is very particular about the condition of his Indian headdress and will spend hours making sure every feather is perfectly in place and that the bending is not sloppily loose.

they want to stay there. And I think I would have been happy to stay on my ranch and live the life of a farmer.

"But then a few months ago, the call came for me to team up with Billy White Wolf in order to defeat the Executioners. I immediately accepted the challenge. Now I'm back where I belong."

We talked some more about his efforts to win the WWWF tag team championship. He was convinced it was only a matter of time before he and Billy White Wolf would be wearing the belts around their waists. I wondered, wouldn't winning the title mean he would have to stay around here?

"Yes, I will have to stay in the Northeast. I've discussed this at length with my family, and they agree I have a task

to do. When we win the title, my wife and son will be prepared. They understand why I must do this. They will not stand in my way."

We relaxed for the rest of the day. Jay went swimming in the ocean a few times. We talked some more about his long-range plans. Soon he was gone, back to New York City in his pursuit of the WWWF tag team title. I couldn't help thinking he would soon have the prize he so coveted. Who knows, by the time you read this column, he and Billy White Wolf may already have won the belts.

In the meantime, I am confined to my summer house here in Easthampton. Well, I could think of worse fates. I just hope I never run into The Sheik again, ever!

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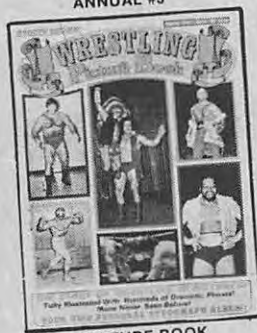
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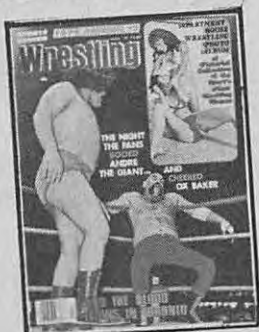
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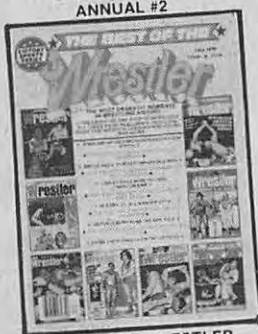
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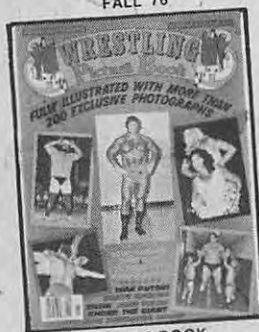
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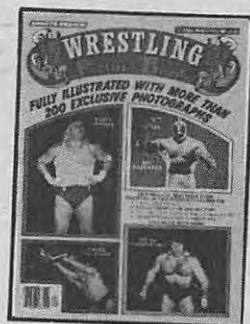
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"TERRY FUNK IS A DISGRACE"

(Continued from Page 38)



Andre the Giant (above) and Chavo Guerrero (right) reel from Funk's questionable move of an elbowsmash to the neck.

champion?

"How could he help but be champion?" Rogers asks rhetorically. "Look at the lousy competition!"

One former champion who still very much a part of the "lousy" competition is Gene Kiniski. This proud grappler didn't demean Funk's skill; Gene despises the man.

"I've seen a lot of guys I didn't think were great champions," Kiniski states, "but Funk is the lowest. I've never seen anyone so ridiculous. He has no pride in the title. I've seen guys use technicalities to keep a title—you have to be a fool not to—but he cheats worse than anyone imaginable!"

"The trouble with Funk is he has no class. He's a stupid cowboy from Texas without a shred of integrity. I don't think he even realizes how important the NWA title is. He's just a clod who doesn't have enough sense to realize he's a disgrace!"

We expected Harley Race to be insulting; he's insulting about everyone. Once again, we were startled at the response.

"I think it's very sad," Harley declared in an uncharacteristically soft voice, "and I really don't like to talk about it. There's a special feeling you



get about a title once you've worn it. When you lose it, the feeling is like watching a child grow up and leave; you still feel a connection to the child.

"When I see what Funk has done to the title, I want to cry. It doesn't mean anything to him that he's supposed to represent the best in his profession. All he wants is the extra bucks a champion gets. The man's behavior as champion could make a maggot gag."

This is far from the type of outburst one expects from Race.

"This is a serious discussion," Race explained, "about a most serious subject. I'm too upset about Funk's insulting the title to be my usual self. And I'd like to say I'm not threatening to take back the title. I'm vowing to rid the sport of Terry Funk. I don't care if I'm destroyed in the process."

Baba the Giant held the title for only one week but that's enough time with the title to understand its special importance.

"I'd rather not talk about Funk," Baba says, "because to do so would be to drag the NWA title through the mud. Funk is not worthy of being discussed as champion. His conduct has been ugly at all times. His cheap tactics are embarrassing, and are beneath contempt. I'd rather think the title was in retirement at this time than believe in the humiliation it has received at Funk's hands."

"Terry's ugly tactics, his vile threats, the bounties placed on tough



Though Wahoo McDaniel is out of the ring, Funk keeps up his ruthlessly devastating assault.

opponents, all make him the worst champion in living memory. It's a shame he has the title."

The man from whom Funk won the title is Jack Brisco. As might be expected, he agrees with his colleagues' assessment of Terry. However, Jack is much calmer about it than the others.

"Terry has the title," Jack says matter-of-factly, "and we have to get it from him. He's a bad champion, but he is not the worst. I think the others say so because the pain of him owning the title is present now. I think history will judge Terry as a bad champion but, not the worst."

"These are dark days for the NWA. Terry is riding roughshod over the entire association with the help of his brother Dory. I'm doing my best to stop them. I can't do any more than that."

How would Jack describe Terry's title reign?

"Disgraceful," Brisco replies quickly, "but not fatal. It's important to remember that. Wrestling will survive Terry Funk." □

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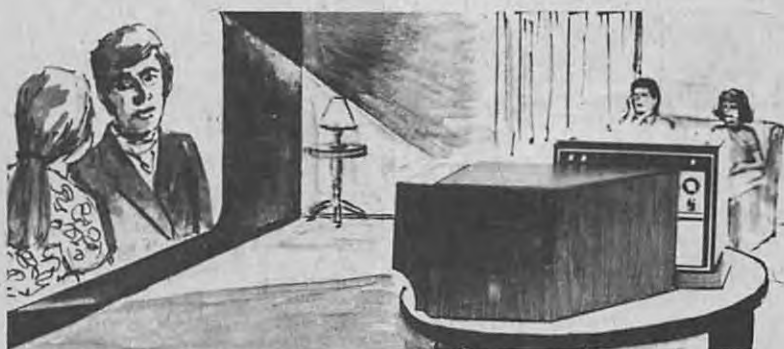
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(Continued from Page 43)



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Above: Pedro proves he is a great tag team partner when he joins forces with famous Pat Patterson. Below: Pedro is close to victory against a tough but vanquished opponent.



sharing their interests and erratic hours. It's not unusual for Pedro to sometimes neglect his training to attend some event in this social circle, no matter where or when it occurs. Those in wrestling fear Pedro may destroy his career by pursuing the pleasures of the mind.

Experts point out that a wrestler must live a regular, calm existence. The body must enjoy a steady routine to be at its best. Late hours and exotic foods can do irreparable damage. The body must be treated like any piece of delicate machinery or it will not function properly.

Those who know Pedro well can begin to detect the first signs of deterioration. His timing is beginning to go slightly awry, not bad enough to render him ineffective, but obvious enough to be a warning. His mental concentration is also beginning to flag. The quick instincts and improvised strategies are beginning to grow sloppy. These are warnings which must be heeded.

Yet, it is doubtful Pedro will forsake his new friends for his career. Their exciting, unpredictable lifestyle fascinates Morales. They are the education he never had the opportunity to have. They challenge Pedro's intellect as it has never before been tested and the grappler loves to battle with his wits. If he stays among these people, Pedro Morales is through as a wrestler.

Coincidentally, the AWA has been negotiating with Pedro to wrestle in

their area. Morales has stalled and hesitated, delaying making a decision. He says he doesn't want to leave San Francisco, even it means more money and bigger career opportunities. Yet, Morales hasn't said he won't go, either.

Obviously, Morales realizes his wrestling survival depends on the move. If he remains in Frisco for another year, he'll be no better than a preliminary wrestler. No man can squander his gifts and retain his greatness.

When asked about the AWA offer, Pedro has said, "I'm tempted, as anyone would be by their generous offer. But I've found a life here I never imagined existed. If I leave now, I might never have another chance to grow intellectually.



Pedro Morales waits for the match to begin. He was great on this night. But are other interests destroying his career?

"These are good people here. They are more interesting and complex than any I've ever met. They can be silly, but they are never dull. And they put their minds on the line like I put my body on the line. I don't know if I can leave this excitement. Also, I've grown very close to some of them. They're the best friends I've ever had."

Does Pedro agree that the intellectual whirlwind might destroy his career?

"Not necessarily," Pedro replies, "if I can get my body used to another routine. Then I could survive. But I realize the risk is there, of course."

The risk is there, of course. But is it worth it? If Pedro Morales wants to save his career, he'll have to accept the AWA offer. If he doesn't go for the new opportunity, his greatness might become history. ☐

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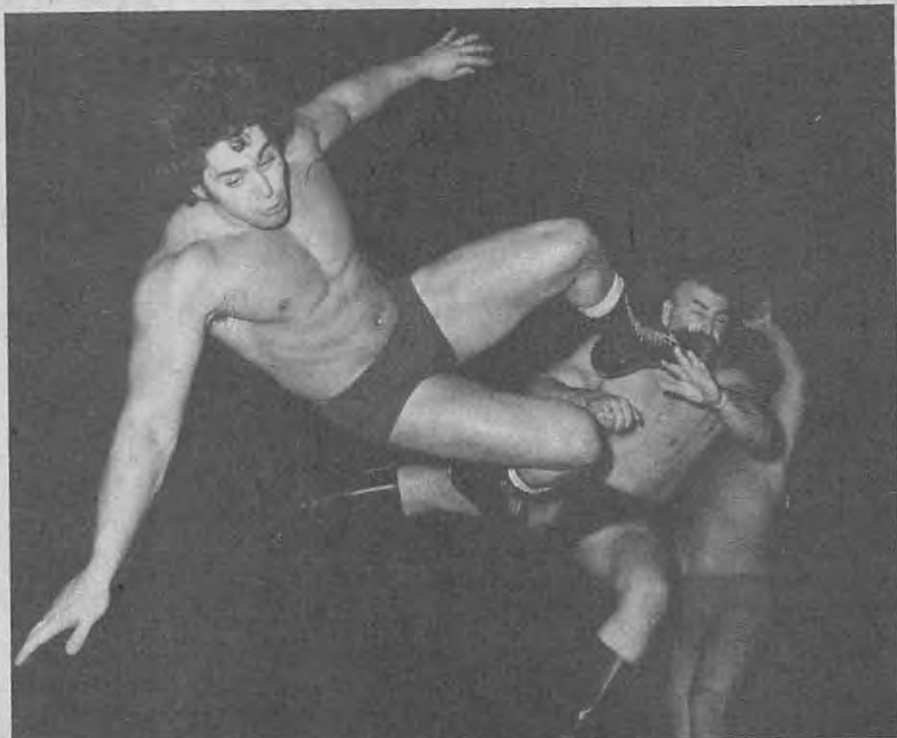
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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from Page 10)



Above: Dino Bravo may be a calm guy before a match, but it is a very different story once he's inside the ring, as luckless Geto Mongol discovers. Below: Jerry Brisco is happy because he just wolfed down another one of his gargantuan "snacks."



spaghetti, and washed it all down with a pitcher of imported beer. One evening, about two hours before a match, Jerry, after finishing another mammoth dinner, wolfed down four containers of cherry yogurt "just for some quick energy."

Many fans have written and asked me to send them the home address of a certain wrestler or wrestlers. If a wrestler asks me to keep his address a secret, then that's the way it shall be. Any questions you have for a wrestler will be forwarded by me directly to the wrestler. It will get there, you can count on it.

I never realized what a super-great guy Dino Bravo is. I had a chance to talk at length with him before a recent match. He wasn't a bit nervous as he awaited his call to action. Believe it or not, most wrestlers show some type of fear before a match. It's only normal—or at least it seems it should be normal—to be nervous. But not Dino. He's as cool as a cucumber before a match.

Dino is a really good-looking guy, and I have often wondered why he doesn't play up his good looks, the way lots of wrestlers play up their own good looks.

"I'm not like that," said Dino. "I don't need to go around and brag about how good looking I am. That's conceit. I'll leave the conceit to the

other guys. I just want to be Dino Bravo, and do what I feel the majority of fans will like." Dino is a top class guy all the way.

Big Bad John (The Bicentennial Baby) is recovering nicely after having had a hole poked in his throat by Jerry Lawler. Big Bad John said he can hardly wait to get back with Bill Dundee so the two of them can get revenge against Lawler.

Did you know Bruno Sammartino would love to face Muhammad Ali? The "Living Legend" is ashamed of the effort (or lack of it) put forth by Antonio Inoki, and he promises to give Ali a whipping he'll never forget. We all know a wrestler can beat a boxer—even a Muhammad Ali—any night of the week. It would just be no contest if Ali ever faced Sammartino. I'd put every penny I had on Bruno if he ever faced Ali.

Billy Graham wants everyone to know what two of the most important qualities he looks for in a woman are her ability to be in total control of her own life and the willingness to try new experiences.

"You see," said Billy, "with me, each and every second is a new and beautiful experience. Being around me for just a couple of days is worth a lifetime of experiences!"

I was offered the difficult task of refereeing a match in Madison Square Garden. I am greatly honored, but I do not envy the job those referees have to do. I have my own problems with many banana-headed wrestlers, and I don't need the added burdens of refereeing a title match. Thanks, but no thanks.

Caught several wrestlers talking about colleague Dan Shocket's column in the September issue of **INSIDE WRESTLING**. Dan wrote about the riots that pop up now and then across the country, and blasted the few idiots who start them. Billy Robinson was one of those wrestlers who lauded Dan as being one of the most perceptive writers in this business.

Said Robinson, "The first thing I do when I pick up **INSIDE WRESTLING** is read your column and Dan's column, 'Bodyslams and Pin-falls.' I think they're great."

Keep those cards and letters coming. They give me the inspiration I need to be the greatest wrestling reporter in the world.

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BODYSLAM & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 18)

injured. I thought it was the only way to keep the sport honest.

"Well, after the first time I instructed the referee to disqualify a guy, the crowd went crazy! They were booing louder than I thought possible. I thought they were going to riot! I've never been so scared—or confused. I thought I'd done the right thing.

"It didn't take me long to realize the right thing wasn't the important thing. The fans had been deprived of seeing a match, a bout for which they'd put out a lot of hard-earned cash. By having the guy disqualified in the opening seconds, they'd been cheated.

"So the fans have a choice. I could stop sneak attacks tomorrow if I came down hard on them today. The fans would have to sacrifice seeing a few matches to profit in the long run. But, crowds are more interested in a night of wrestling than in the sport of wrestling. So if I go by my principles, I'll lose the fans. Then where would I be?"

So, the promoters, the rulebreakers and the fans all share responsibility for the worst plague to ever hit wrestling. The victims, decent wrestlers all over the world,

forced to hobble through the rest of their lives. Others learn to live with arms which can no longer be raised above the shoulder. Muscles are irreparably torn. The worst cases are forced to spend the rest of their lives in wheelchairs.

One such young man, his bright future now just a taunting dream, remembers the night he went from great athlete to cripple. He never



Even a sneak attack against a man like Bobby Heenan (above) cannot really be justified.



Sneak attacked, Bobo Brazil is almost choked to death by one of the notorious Love brothers.

are helpless to defend themselves. They lack the power to singly work a change, and unionization of any kind is unknown in wrestling.

Some wrestlers have paid the highest price for being decent—their careers are over. Some are

gets through the story without tears flowing.

"I had my back to my opponent, signing autographs," he recalls, "when I felt this sharp pain in the small of my back. My opponent, a veteran stinker, had smashed me there with his fist, which was wrapped around the metal bar to make it more powerful. I went down like I'd been shot. I passed out from the pain. When I woke up, the doctors told me my spinal cord had been severed by snapped vertebrae. I would never be able to leave my wheelchair."

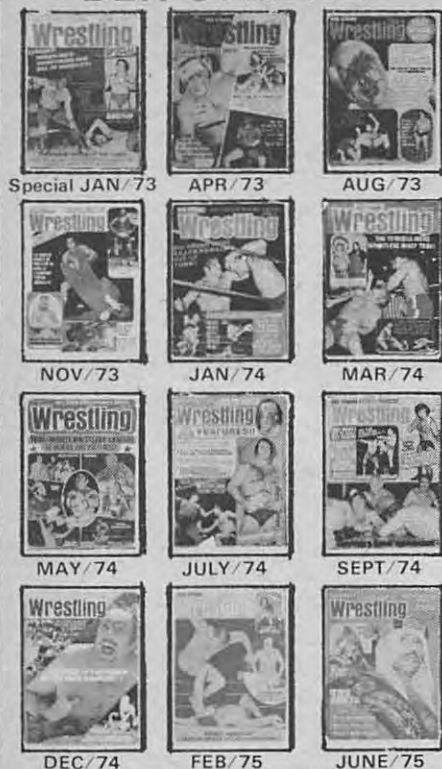
As long as sneak attacks are tolerated, this will be the result. The fans, by demanding promoters punish heavily rulebreakers, can stop this. The promoters, out of a sense of decency, can stop this. If nothing is done, sooner or later we will share the guilt of murder. □

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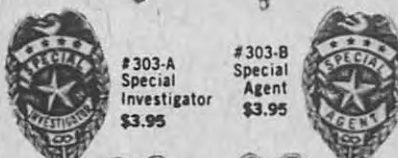
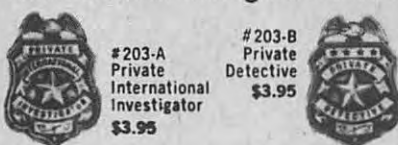
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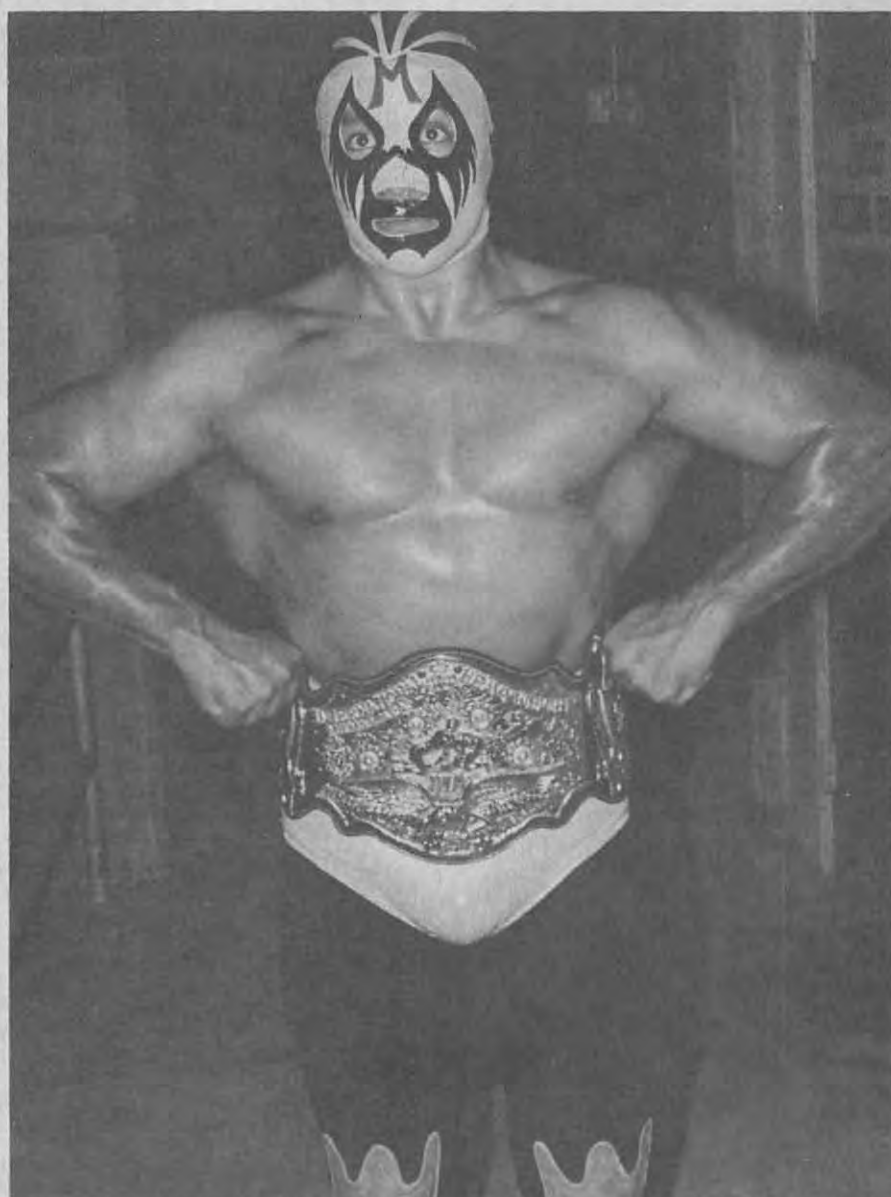
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 49)



Above: After a week without it, Mil Mascaras wears his mask again. Below: Billy Graham is locked with Bruno Sammartino.

sonal revenge.

Now it is obvious to me that this fan-attack situation is far more dangerous than I had ever imagined. A friend of mine in Chicago tells me that some idiot pulled a gun and tried to shoot a referee not too long ago. A fan at the Olympic was carried away from the ring unconscious and bloody, the result of his jumping into the ring to try and get at the Hollywood Blonds. All of this damage to human beings is the result of the inability of some fans to control themselves, and the whole situation stinks.

I thank and applaud Dan Shocket for writing "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" in the September issue of INSIDE WRESTLING. It was an article that should have been written years ago to alert people like myself to the conditions under which wrestling has



to be conducted, and the seriousness of what may at first appear to be a harmless way of letting off steam. Again, I applaud your work.

LEON LYNN
Lawrence, N.Y.

THE BEST

I've just finished reading the August edition of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, and I found it one of the best issues you have ever put out. I noticed the many changes you have made, and they should help your fine reputation. The August issue contained about 150 pictures, which is really great! The identity puzzle was very good, and I think you should put some kind of puzzle in for us fans each month.

Thanks for all the great stories and photos in your magazine. It is truly the greatest wrestling magazine in the world!

BRAD GADSBY
Georgetown, Ontario



Freddie Blassie knows what it is like to be attacked by a crazed fan. These people are a blight on the wrestling scene!

RIGHT ON, DAN!

I just finished reading Dan Shocket's "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" (**INSIDE WRESTLING**/August 1976), and I couldn't agree more. A few weeks ago, two of the biggest names in women wrestling, champion Fabulous Moolah and wonderful Susan Green, were matched against one another. When I read the

(Continued on page 64)

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PACK DYNAMITE IN YOUR HANDS

NOW, THE FAMED "PRIESTS LIGHTENING BOLT"
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Yes, it's true... the power packed Yawara is yours absolutely free when you order the book "Yawara Power," the instruction manual designed to take you step by step and make you a master of the most dynamic and unbeatable fighting force ever harnessed by man.

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It is a small, specially-made weapon you hold in your palm. The Yawara gives you a special advantage over any attacker because every inch of it spells deadly trouble.

The powerful Yawara weapon turns your fist into dynamite... crushes bones, rips flesh, makes your opponents BEG for mercy.

COMPLETELY LEGAL!

What's more, the Yawara defense weapon is perfectly legal. You need no permit to carry it, there are no laws against it.

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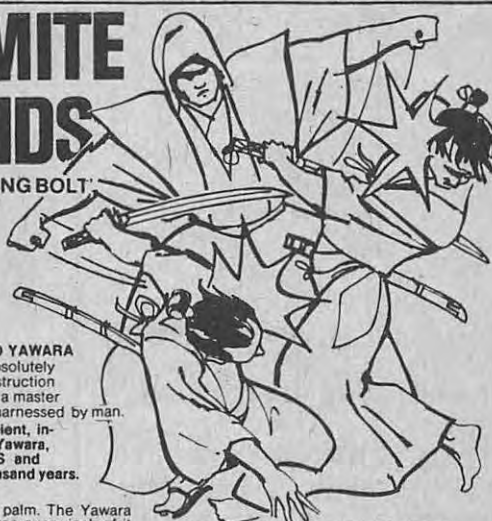
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With this Yawara course you get a genuine, custom made Yawara Defense Attack Weapon Absolutely Free! That's right. Even if you ask for a refund, the Yawara is yours to keep. But please act fast. Our supply of this special Yawara device is limited. Mail the coupon now!

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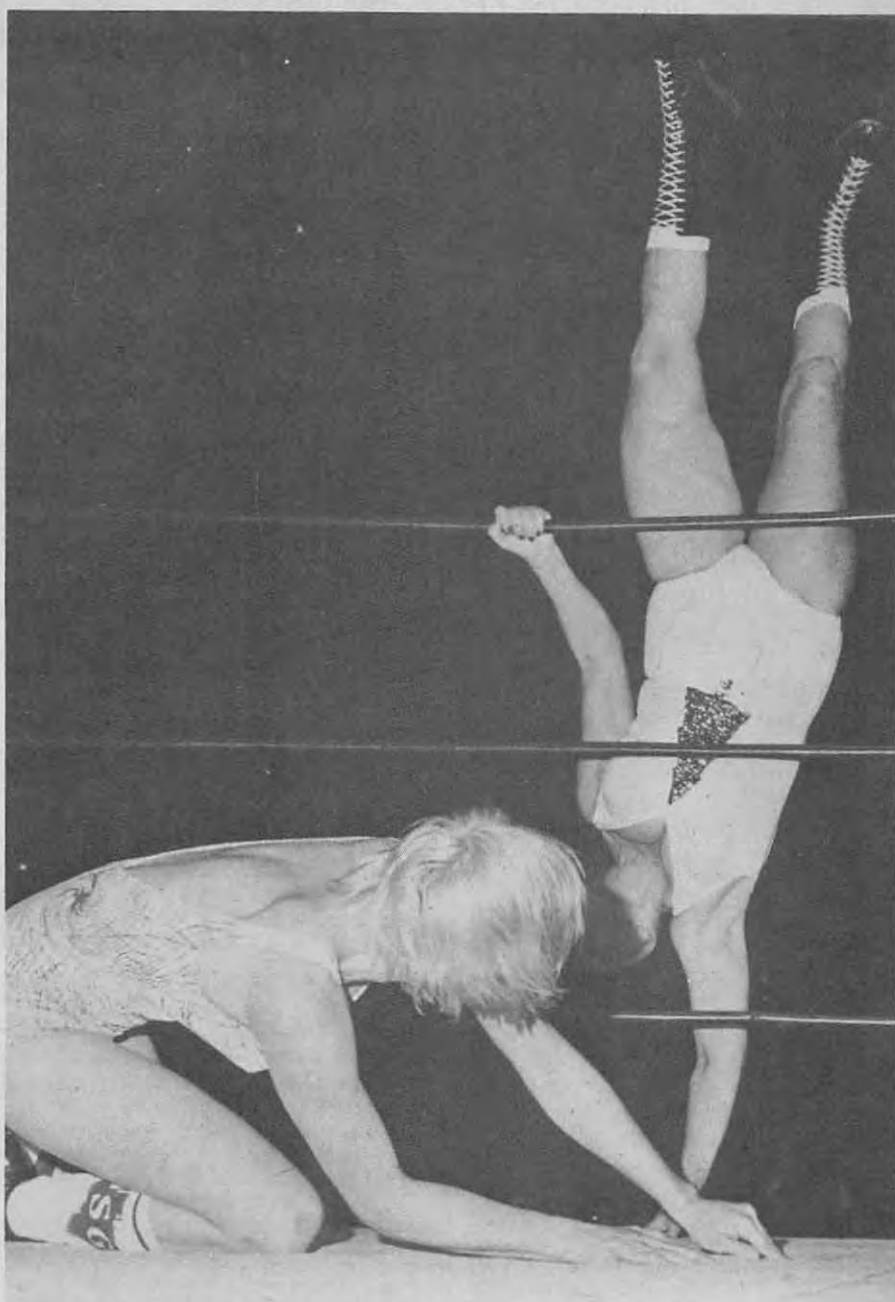
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 63)



Sue Green flips Fabulous Moolah over the ropes in an exciting championship match—which for some reason was not listed as a main event. Readers argue women deserve the same fame as men.

program, it didn't list the Women's WORLD Championship match as one of the three main events. I was **SHOCKED!** We only get women wrestling once every six months most of the time. And I think the women's matches are always much more exciting than the men's. It is about time women were appreciated more and given more chances and privileges. **WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!**

MARGUERITE SALEM
Boynton Beach, Fla.

ABOUT THE FUNKS

I was quite shocked by your story, "Why Terry Funk Must Wrestle Dory Funk Jr." (INSIDE WRESTLING/August 1976). What are you trying to do, cause a split between two brothers?

Dory has too much loyalty to his family and to his brother to ever even think of challenging Terry for the title. And while I admit Dory would be (and was) a better champion than Terry, he still would not try to take Terry's title.

LONNIE KEMPLE
Texarkana, Ark.



Terry Funk proudly holds the NWA belt (above). He is also close to his brother, Dory Funk Jr. (below). Will the belt destroy their brotherly love?



CHEERS FOR THE COLUMNS

I just had to write in to tell you how much I enjoy the new look to **INSIDE WRESTLING**. You have taken a great magazine and made it even better.

What I really like most are the new columns you have put inside the magazine. I look forward to my copy of **INSIDE WRESTLING** every month now to read "Editor's Notebook," "On the Road," "Bodyslams and Pinfalls," "Behind the Dressing Room Door," and "Names Makin' News." The addition of these great columns to **INSIDE WRESTLING** was a stroke of genius.

There is no doubt in my mind **INSIDE WRESTLING** is now the best wrestling magazine around. Where else could a fan find so much information about everything he ever wanted to know about the sport?

Keep up the great work. Thank you!
STEPHEN LEVANTHAL
Chicago, Ill. □



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"MAN GROWS to 40 and sometimes 50" according to late Curator of Physical Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institute. Some facts recently confirmed by Washington Doctor.

"The Influence of Exercise on Growth" revealed by U.S. Surgeon. (From the Journal of Experimental Medicine) A controlled group experiment.

"GAINS IN HEIGHT and weight as a result of experiments on boys from 12 to 17." Studies in Physical Development and Posture. (From U.S. Public Health Bulletin.)

Mr. C.A. claims and testifies to HEIGHT INCREASE of 1 1/2" at age of 54.

Mr. A.S. writes to leading newspaper how father INCREASED HEIGHT by 1 1/2".

Medical literature reveals SPINAL GROWTH can be interrupted by excessive pressures and if deformity can be corrected, provided that they have not been irreversibly damaged — GROWTH WILL RESUME. N.Y. Academy of Medicine.

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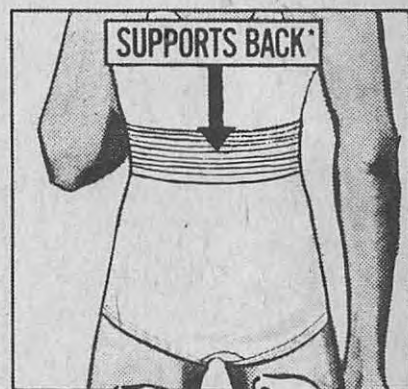
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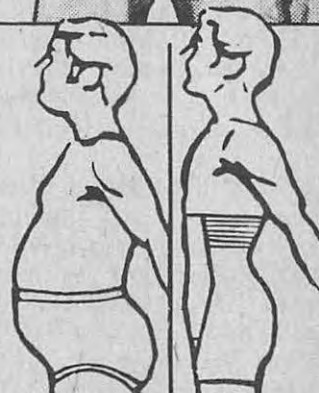
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